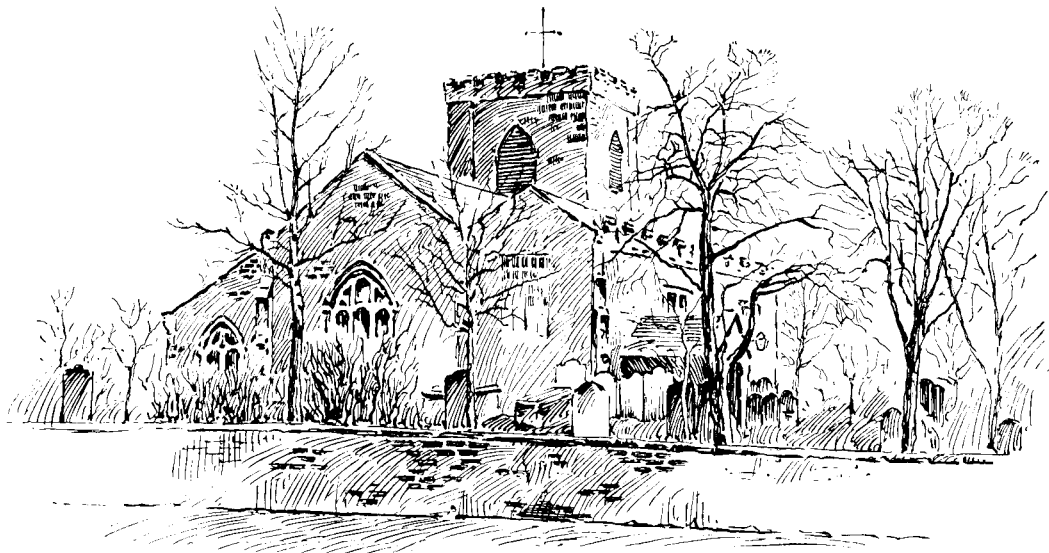


*Castleford & District
in the Olden Times*

**CASTLEFORD AND DISTRICT
IN THE
OLDEN TIME**



CASTLEFORD PARISH CHURCH, 1450 TO 1865

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

(Including Pontefract, Fryston, Ledsham, Ledstone,
Kippax, Methley Featherstone, Brotherton
and Ferrybridge)

BY

LORENZO PADGETT

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TO THE BOYS OF CASTLEFORD,
ON WHOM THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN
SO GREATLY DEPENDS,
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

PREFACE

Local histories are not only of interest to readers living in the district immediately treated of, but are often made vehicles of much general information. It has been well said that "what is local is often also national." This may seem a paradox, yet I think it is an observation which may specially be applied to the district around Castleford, for within a radius of some few miles from the town we have ancient earthworks, the ruins of a feudal castle, the sites of famous battle-fields, quaint old manor houses, and the seats of families whose ancestors have taken an active part in the stirring events of their times. Yet though the whole neighbourhood is rich in its historical associations, no local writer has hitherto undertaken to present in an easily accessible form, a detailed and reliable account of its connection with our national history.

The design of the present work is an attempt to furnish such an account. The gathering of historic data I have always felt to be a pleasure, hence the writing of this book has afforded me a pleasant pastime for leisure hours, and the necessary research has opened out a number of items of information that have never before been published.

I have given some prominence to the history of the parish churches of the locality, because, to my mind, the old church is, in every parish, one of the

strongest links that bind the Present with the Past, and therefore its history and associations can scarcely fail to excite interest in the minds of the present generation.

Although the complexion of the work is largely antiquarian, I venture to believe that it partakes only of that character in its most popular sense, for in this delightful region of the Past, are countless evidences that

"Not dull nor barren are the winding ways
Of hoar Antiquity."

I have at some pains striven to be accurate, but if in any case I have failed in that endeavour, I solicit the kindly indulgence of my readers, who will readily recognize the complexities and ambiguities which have surrounded some of the matters with which I have had to deal.

My thanks are due, and are here tendered, to the Rev. R. Gardner-Smith, F.L.S., Rector of Castleford, for much valuable assistance rendered me in the preparation of the book, and to the clergy of the district for giving me access to the registers and other parish records in their possession; also to the Rev. Emill B. Smith, Vicar of Kippax; Mr. H. C. Blanshard and Mr. Alfred Wilson, of Castleford, for the photographs from which most of the illustrations are taken.

LORENZO PADGETT.

Castleford, March, 1904.

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INTRODUCTORY

The antiquity of Castleford, and the important part that the district around has played in the history of England, is a subject of some local interest.

From William Camden's great work, "Britannia, a Survey of England," published early in the 17th century, we learn that a history of Castleford was then in existence. Leland, an earlier historian quotes from the same work. The history was written by a Thomas de Casterford, a native of Hoctun (Glass Houghton), who flourished during the latter part of the 13th and on into the 14th century, having received his education, and been brought up as a Benedictine monk, at the ancient Priory of St. John at Pontefract. All trace of this book has unfortunately disappeared, and with it nearly all records of Castleford during an interesting period of English history.

The purpose of this present book, is to bring together such records as the writer has been able to collect from various sources, which give us a few glimpses of Castleford in the Past, with the historical associations which cluster around the place and its immediate neighbourhood.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Yorkshire Many of the names of the towns and
Place- villages around this district are full of
Names interest and meaning, retaining as they do much that is descriptive about them, and indicating some of the changes which localities have undergone during the centuries that have passed away.

Judging from the etymology of many of the place-names in Yorkshire, our county has from remote times been distinctively a land of hedges and enclosures, and the Castleford district in its local names, affords many illustrations of this fact. The suffixes which we find, occur most frequently in these Anglo-Saxon names, and denote an enclosure of some kind or other—something hedged, walled in, or protected. For example, the termination “ton,” has reference to a place surrounded by a hedge, containing originally, perhaps a single homestead, or farm. In course of time a multiplication of these “tons” became a village, or town, and the suffix is still retained in such names as Fryston, Aketon, Carleton, Swillington, Allerton, Ledstone, Houghton, Oulton (the old town), and Halton (the holy town).

“Worth” is another termination of many local place-names, and expresses a similar meaning to “ton,” viz.:—a place guarded round, or protected. We find it in such names as Badsworth, Ackworth, Hemsworth and Wentworth. “Burg,” “burgh,” “brough” and “borough,” which though sometimes in the old Celtic names meant a burial-mound, more

Yorkshire Place-Names

frequently had reference in Saxon times to an embanked enclosure; thus we have such names as Dewsbury, Horbury, Knaresborough, Scarborough and Burg-Wallis (the latter name, "Burg," being evidently Celtic).

The suffix "ham" also signifies an enclosure—a home or habitation, "hemmed in," as in the names Ledsham and Collingham. Another common suffix is "burn" or "bourne," in Old English, a brook; we find it in such local names as Fairburn and Sherburn.

When the warlike race of Northmen established themselves in this portion of England, they left upon the map of Yorkshire many characteristic names, from which we can tell what portions of our country were ravaged by these Scandinavian tribes, and what particular parts were settled or colonized by them. An important historical fact, for instance, is embedded in such a suffix as "thorpe," which is a Norse word meaning "a village," or hamlet, a Norse settlement. This termination enables us to distinguish between the settlements of the Danes and Angles, and those of the Norsemen; thus, whilst we have many "thorpes" in Yorkshire, there are none at all in Lancashire, and I believe only one in Cumberland. In this district we have Gawthorpe, Kirkthorpe, Wrenthorpe, Alverthorpe, Thorpe Hesley and Thorpe Audlin, all indicating settlements of these Norse vikings.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

In the neighbourhood we have names which carry us further back to the Roman times; and the character of their occupation of the country may be gathered from the names, which mostly indicate some camp or fort. The Roman word "strata" (in Saxon "street") is still retained in such place-names as Streethouses and Ardwick-le-Street.

The following are the derivations of some of the place-names round this district:—

Castleford, anciently Castrumford, Chesterford, Casterford, and Castelleford, from "castrum," *i.e.* a camp or fort; and "ford," which meant a shallow part of a stream crossed by a road.

Featherstone, anciently Fetherston, Fredaston, that is Freda's town, from "Feada" or "Freda," a common Danish appellation. (A general of that name is mentioned as serving under Hardicanute, about 1042.).

Fryston, *i.e.* Frieya's town. Friga or Freya was the name of a Saxon god, from which we get our word Friday (Freya's day) that being the day dedicated to the worship of that heathen deity.

Knottingley, formerly Knuttanlege, the field of the Knuttings; "Knut," a form of "Canute"—a common Danish personal name; and "Ing" *i.e.* a tribe; and "ley" or "lege," *i.e.* a field.

Ledsham, anciently Leedesham and Lodisham, *i.e.* a hamlet depending upon Lodis, or Lloegyr, the original Celtic tribe settled in the kingdom of Elmet from most remote times; the suffix "ham"

Yorkshire Place-Names

i.e. an enclosed habitation, that which hems in, and in this particular case probably applying to the border or frontier of this Celtic tribe. Lead (Lede) Ledstone and Leeds are from the same Celtic root.

Peckfield *i.e.* the peac-feld, a cleared spot on an eminence.

Methley, anciently Madeley, the field or meadows lying between two streams; the parish is enclosed on its eastern side by the Aire and Calder.

Micklefield, *i.e.* the great field, from "Mickle" *i.e.* great, large.

Saxton, the town of the Seacs or Saxons, as distinguished from the Danes, who according to eminent topographers, settled just east of this place, so that here the two peoples or tribes met as it were, it being the boundary of their respective territories at one period.

Sherburn, in Domesday, Scireburne; in the documents of the Middle Ages, Schirburn, Scireburn and Sherburne, from Sceran *i.e.* to cut, or divide; and "bourne" *i.e.* a brook; hence the combination of the words means, "the dividing stream." The ancient earthworks east of Sherburn would appear at one period to have been a line of defence, protecting the inhabitants of Sherburn from the Danes, who landing at Riccal on the Ouse, long menaced the district lying east of Sherburn.

Fairburn, anciently Fareburne, has the same suffix.

Whitkirk, from "hivit," white, and "ciric" or

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

“kirk,” Danish, a church. The same prefix occurs in Whitwood, Whitley and Whitby.

Glass Houghton, anciently Hoctun: Hoc or Haigh, a fence or boundary; tun, *i.e.* a homestead. The distinctive title “Glass” is derived from a glasshouse erected there in the 18th century, which may be seen indicated on old plans, but the factory itself has long since disappeared.

CHAPTER I.

The Ancient Britons In the time of the Ancient Britons the district around Castleford lay in the heart of a vast forest which covered all the northern portion of England from the Tyne to as far south as Nottingham, through which roamed wolves and wild boars, while the banks of the rivers and streams were the haunts of badgers, beavers and otters.

That the district was for many centuries later characterised by its forests is evidenced by the etymology of the names of places in the immediate neighbourhood. Thus we have such names as Whitwood, Outwood, and others indicating also the prevalence of particular trees, as Aketon, Ackworth (from the oak), Alverthorpe (from the alder), Thornes, Thornhill, Thornwell, Thorncliffe (from the hawthorn), Elmsall, and Elmet (from the elm), Barkstone Ash (from the ash), and the like.

Our earliest records of the Britons are chiefly confined to the south of England, where centuries before the Christian Era some sort of communication with the continent existed. We have even evidence that Phœnician traders from the far East visited the Scilly Islands, and the coasts of Cornwall

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

for cargoes of tin. We may therefore fairly assume that in those remote times, the Aborigines who dwelt in our northern districts would be far less civilized than those living in closer proximity to the continent of Europe.

To the character and habits of these inhabitants of the North of Britain, various testimonies have been given by ancient historians. These writers have described their ferocity and intrepid courage in battle—their hardy patience in the endurance of hunger, cold and fatigue—their custom of tattooing their skin with the figures of animals—and their savage mode of life in those vast and inaccessible forests.

The The district around Castleford in those
Brigantes. far-off times formed part of the country of the Brigantes, a hardy and courageous race who for a long period withstood even the advance of the Roman legions, and did not submit to their yoke until more than a century after the Romans had established themselves firmly in the South of Britain. About the year 79 A.D. Agricola, the Roman Governor of Britain, succeeded after a great struggle in conquering and bringing under Roman sway this northern tribe. The Capital of the Brigantes was named Isur or Isurium, now Aldborough, near Boroughbridge. This was the place to which Caractacus retreated before the Roman invaders, and where some 1,800 years ago Cartismandau, the queen of the Brigantes, in order

The Brigantes

to gain favour with the Romans, betrayed this grand type of the old Celtic people, and delivered him bound into the hands of his enemies. His subsequent captivity in Rome, and his noble bearing before the Emperor Claudius, have made his name for ever famous in the annals of our race.

There still exist evidences of the British stronghold of Isurium in the monoliths, vulgarly known as "the Devil's Arrows," not far from Borough-bridge. One ancient topographer mentions five of these; in Leland's time there were four standing; fifty years later the historian Camden says he saw four, but one of them was thrown down. At the present time three remain, one of them being over twenty feet in height. A modern antiquarian who has carefully examined the ground, considers that the original number of stones was much greater; that two thousand years ago a line of some twenty monoliths guarded the western approach to Isurium.

At many other places in Yorkshire are still to be seen ancient British mounds, which have been artificially constructed, and date back to those early times. One splendid specimen is to be seen in the field just behind the Gascoigne Arms at Barwick-in-Elmet, another near the church at Kippax; and on the Staplyton Estate near Kirk-Smeaton, stands another; these remain as memorials of those bygone ages, when the district in which we live was the home of the ancient Celtic people.

To the desperate resistance and invincible bravery

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

of the Brigantes in their contest with the Romans, various interesting testimonies may be adduced. In the reign of Domitian they interrupted the pro-prætor Ostorius in the full career of victory; in the dirge sung at the funeral procession of the Emperor Claudius, "the azure-armed Brigantes" were deemed worthy of distinct mention; and the pen of Tacitus has recorded the glory of their submission.

Petilius Cerealis was the military commander who reduced the Brigantes to the condition of subjects, and the imperial authority was completely established among these valiant barbarians by the power and policy of Agricola.

The condition of the conquered Brigantes, under the despotism of the Romans, was at first extremely calamitous and deplorable. "The yoke," says Camden, in the quaint but expressive language of his time, "was first imposed upon Britain by garrisons, who always kept the inhabitants in awe, levying taxes and tributes on their estates. Magistrates were sent over from Rome to administer justice. The prætor promulgated his haughty decisions from a lofty tribunal, surrounded by lictors, threatening the people's backs with rods, and their necks with axes."

CHAPTER II

The Advent of the Romans The Romans effected a settlement in the south of Britain about 54 B.C., and upwards of a century later, we find that they had practically subdued and parcelled out into well-defined provinces the whole of the country as far north as the Grampians, and had established various camps or forts, and connected these by well-constructed military roads or streets. Thus the whole country of the Brigantes, which included the Castleford district, came to form part of the Roman Province of Maxima Cæsariensi.

At the place now known as Castleford, the Romans established one of these strongholds, through which ran an important military road, the great Watling Street, which has been closely traced from Danum (Doncaster), through Barnsdale, East Hardwick, down what now forms the western boundary of Pontefract Park, over or near Round-hill, across the end of Smawthorne Lane and Welbeck Street, crossing Carlton Street near to where now stands the Junction Inn, down Rectory Street and across the river by a ford near to the present dam, and thence forward through Calcaria (Tadcaster) to Isurium (Aldborough) and the north.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

A second Roman road from Chesterfield by way of Sheffield, Hemsworth and Ackworth joined Watling Street near here, as did also a third from Chester by way of Wakefield, Streethouses, and the old road south of Pontefract Park, which in Saxon times was the boundary of the townships of Tateshale (Tanshelf) and Ferestone (Featherstone) as may be seen from the Domesday Record. As late as 1859 as many as 500 Roman coins of the age of Constantine were found in a single urn, under the surface of this very road, near to where it skirts the western border of Pontefract Park; and a fourth Roman road has been distinctly traced along Bridge Street, probably joining the old road over Red Hill to Pontefract. At many places in the neighbourhood remains of these roads have been found in modern times. In digging some drains in Bridge Street many years ago, the Roman road was cut through some two feet below the surface, and when the canal was constructed in 1826, the excavators cut through Watling Street some feet below the surface of the ground, where the paved road was distinctly seen, the stones being laid in regular formation, and it was observed that the road shelved down towards the ford.

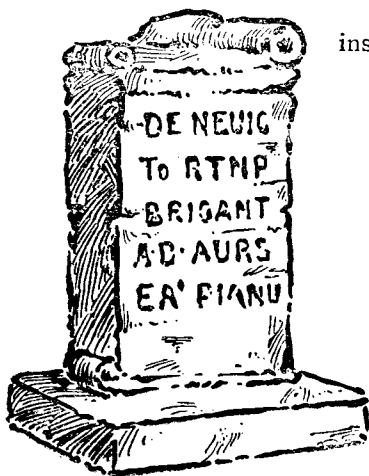
From the circumstance of so many roads converging at or near this place, Leland and other celebrated antiquarians all agree in fixing the site of the Roman city of Legiolium or Legecium (for the city is called by each of these names in the

Relics of the Roman Times

Roman Iter Britanniarum of 350 A.D.) at Castleford. Antonine, a very remote writer, confirms this view, as he specially locates the site by reference to the distance from Danum (Doncaster) to Legiolium as being sixteen miles, and from Legiolium to Eboracum (York) as twenty miles, which exactly fits the site of Castleford.

Other evidences that Castleford was an important Roman Station are to be seen in the wealth of Roman remains which have been unearthed from time to time. In the Leeds Philosophical Hall is a good specimen of a Roman Altar dug up at Castleford by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company, and by them presented to Leeds.

It bears the following inscription :—



DENEUIC
TORTNP
BRIGANT
A.D. AVRS
EA. PINNO

Roman Altar found at Castleford.

From a Sketch by J. P. Padgett.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Another interesting relic, until two years ago, might be seen in the grounds of Mr. James Allison's residence in Beancroft Street. It stands more than four feet in height, and is sixteen inches in thickness. It was found about five feet below the surface in Beancroft Road, which almost exactly overlies a piece of the Roman road which led through Castleford. There are two inscriptions, one at each end. When first erected in the reign of the Emperor Decius Trajanus A.D., 249-251, it was inscribed with his and his son's names and titles. After his death, it was inverted and re-inscribed at the other end with the names and titles of his successors and conjoint Emperors Vibius Gallus and Vibius Volusianus A.D. 251-253. The inscriptions which are abbreviated appear to be as follows:—

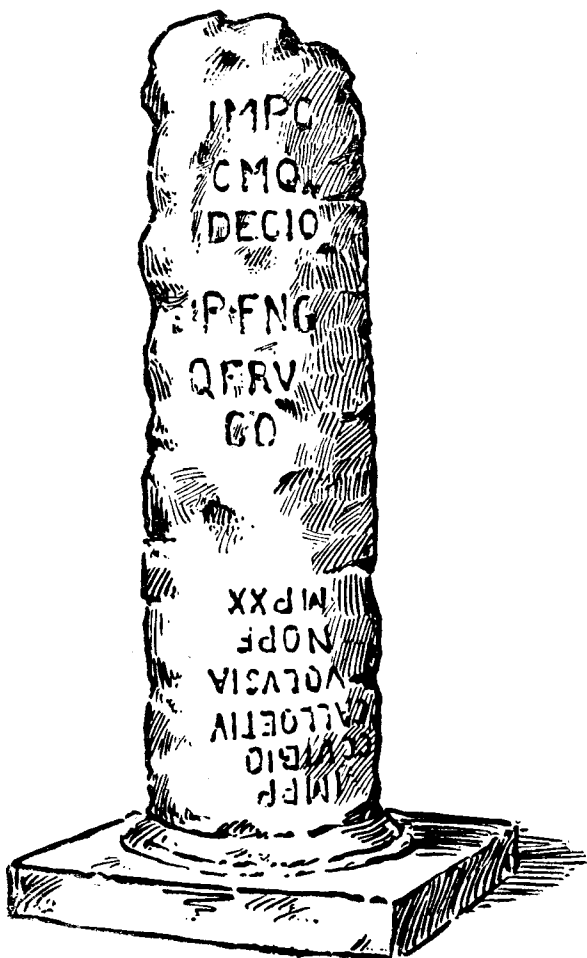
(a) I M P C
CMQ
DECIO
P F V G
Q F R V
CO

(b) I M P P
CCVIBIO
GALLOETCV
VOLVSIA
MOPE
MPXX

It has been deciphered as follows:—

(a) Imperatore	(b) Imperatoribus
Cæsare Messio Quinto	Cæsarilus C Vibio Gallo
Decio	et C Vibio Volusiano pils
pio felici Augusto et c	felicibus Augustis Eburaco
Messio	
Quinto Etrusco	Millia passuum x x

(See illustration on the opposite page).



Roman Milestone found at Castleford.

From a Sketch by J. P. Padgett.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

The indication of distance from Eboracum (York) is interesting. By the line of the Roman road through Aberford and Tadcaster the distance from Castleford to York is about twenty English miles.

It is unfortunate that this interesting relic, which has been in Castleford for over 1650 years, was not retained and given a resting place in our proposed Free Library.

The stones of a quern (or hand-mill for grinding corn) such as was commonly used by the Romans, were dug up some fifty years ago near the corner of Carlton Street while cutting a drain; it was taken possession of by the then rector, the Rev. Theophilus Barnes, and long occupied a position in the old rectory grounds. I have searched diligently for it, but all trace of this ancient quern has unfortunately disappeared. Mrs. England of Beancroft Road possesses part of a Roman quern along with other relics unearthed when digging the foundations of the shop at the corner of Temple Street. In Pontefract Museum, in the School Museum at the New Board Schools in Pontefract Road, and in the hands of private individuals in and around Castleford, are many specimens of Roman pottery, urns, lamps, fragments of tessellated pavement, and coins having the effigies of various Roman Emperors.

Mr. James Cass and Mr. Samuel Harrison, two prominent Castleford citizens, each possesses a rare and interesting specimen of a Roman Burial-Urn



Roman Burial Urns found at Castleford.

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containing what have every appearance of being charred human bones. By the kindness of these gentlemen I am able to give an illustration of these two urns. One was found when digging the foundations of the house at the corner of Smawthorne Lane and Beancroft Road, and the other when digging the foundations of the shop on the opposite side of Beancroft Road.

All these are historic proofs, that during the Roman occupation of Britain, the site of the present town of Castleford was a place intimately associated with that great and powerful nation, and here was maintained a Roman Garrison, and we may fairly assume that many a Roman legion, under such commanders as Suetonius Paulinus, Agricola, Hadrian, Severus and Constantine, has marched through Castleford.

Camden. Camden, writing in 1586, says:—"Near the union of the Are and Calder stands the little village of Casterford, but called by Marianus, Caisterford, who tells us that the citizens of York slew many of Ethelred's army here, and scattered the rest in disorderly flight, when he invaded this country, for their treachery and breach of Leagues; yet the older name of this place is that in Antoninus, where 'tis called Legiolium and Legetium, which among other remarkable and express remains of antiquity is confirmed by those great numbers of coins, called by the common people Sarafin's heads, dug up here in Beanfield, a place

Relics of the Roman Times

near the church, and so called from the beans that grow there; also by the distance of it from Danum (Doncaster) and Eboracum (York) on each side, not to mention its situation by a Roman way, or that Hoveden expressly calls it a city."

Stukeley. The historian Stukeley in 1725 wrote—"Here the Hermin* Street passes the river Aere, it is broad and deep withall. The place where the castle was is a little above the cascade; the stones are in great part left, but the mill dam lays it too deep under water. Hence the paved road goes up the bank to the east side of the church, and forward through the fields, where innumerable coins are ploughed up. One part is called Stone Acre. A man told me he had formerly ploughed up a dozen Roman coins in one day, they are called by the ignorant inhabitants 'Saracen's heads.' Urns are often found. There are stone pavements, foundations, &c. South of the church is a pasture called Castle Garth; here were buildings of the city, but the Roman castrum was where the church now stands, built probably out of its ruins. It is high ground—the low ground of the ditch that encompassed it is manifest. The country people have a notion of its being an old city, and of the Roman road crossing the meadows by this ford, and of great seats and palaces having been here formerly. Here is a sweet meadow

*NOTE.—This is an error on the part of Stukeley, he should have written Watling Street.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

north of the castle, of great extent."

Such was the information Stukeley obtained when he surveyed Castleford with so much attention in 1725.

Whitaker. Dr. Whitaker writing in 1780, says: "After an interval of fifty-five years when I paid my visit to Castleford, though grown as might be expected somewhat more indistinct, all concurred in proving the accuracy of Stukeley's observations. It is still a fact, that the sites of some of these Roman places, and Castleford amongst them, appear to have been sown with coins; when I was there considerable gleanings of these were found, besides a pretty intaglio or a camelian, and I procured a scarce Denarius of Caracalla. The principal scene of these discoveries lies in the orchards and enclosures south of the church, which was probably the ground upon which the city stood. The church itself, unquestionably stands within the Roman castrum."

It will be observed that though these writers mention certain remains of an old Saxon castle, all trace of the more ancient Roman castrum had disappeared, they found no trace of it, but merely locate its site as being on the elevated ground where the church now stands.

Facts relating to the condition of Legiolium during the Roman occupation, there are none to give, the local history of those centuries is forever buried in the backward abyss of time.

Relics of the Roman Times

What was the life of the old Celtic populations under the régime of Severus and other Roman Emperors we can only faintly conjecture. It is clear, however, that the Castleford people still show a fondness for the old Roman name of their town, judging from the residences, lodges, trademarks, and other institutions which bear the ancient patronymic of Legiolium.

The traces of Roman roads and the remains of Roman cities, with which this district has been thus demonstrated to abound, are by no means to be solely considered as the objects of antiquarian curiosity and interest, but also as indications of the general character and manners of the men by whom those roads were constructed, and those cities reared. They furnish memorials of the ruthless ambition and territorial aggrandizement of the Romans; they testify to their policy in colonizing the regions which their valour had acquired—and they show that the Romans, in whatever circumstances placed, and in whatever provinces settled, never abandoned their military habits, but maintained, as they had established, their government at the point of the sword.

The towns and stations, such as Legiolium, were so many garrisons and fortified posts, the stronghold of military despotism. And for what purpose did they construct their magnificent roads, but to provide facilities for military communication, and to enable their legionaries to stifle all opposition

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to their will, and to crush all attempts at rebellion? At what expense, and by what agency these works were accomplished in our district, let Tacitus say:— That historian declares that “the Britons complained that the Romans wore out their bodies and hands in fortifying woods and marshes, accompanying their blows with insults.” The fact appears to be, that whatever the *superstructure* may have been, the *foundations* of Roman power in Britain were “cemented with tears and blood”; and many a generation was subjected to slavery, before depotism had finished its work, and power had completed what tyranny had begun. When the country was finally subdued, it is certain that the Romans fostered the cultivation of its natural resources. This district must also have derived no inconsiderable advantages from its proximity to York, which was honoured by the especial patronage and occasional residence of some of the Roman Emperors. But upon the decline of the Roman Empire the scene was again awfully changed.

CHAPTER III

The Saxon Period About the year 410 A.D. the Roman garrisons were withdrawn from Britain and other distant provinces, to defend Italy, the heart of the vast Roman Empire, from the incursions of the Huns and Goths. Legiolium was thus evacuated by the Roman soldiers. Then ensued a troublous period, which witnessed the invasions of the Picts and Scots, who ravaged these northern regions, followed by the advent of the Angles and Saxons, who slowly but surely established themselves in the country.

Geoffrey of Monmouth, and other ancient historians refer to this district as being the battle-ground of rival races during the fifty years following the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain, until the Teutonic invaders drove the Celts north of the river Aire, into what afterwards became the little British Kingdom of Elmete, having at one time Kippax as its southern line of defence.

The 600 years following the Roman occupation is known as the Saxon Period. Evidences of the Saxons' presence are found in many parts of the district in the place-names, and in the herring-bone architecture in the older parts of the churches at

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Kippax, Barwick-in-Elmet and Burg-Wallis.

From such names as Whitwood, Whitkirk, Kirkthorpe and South Kirkby it would appear that the invading Danes made settlements in the district during this Saxon Period. The inhabitants were engaged in long, fierce and desperate wars both with the Saxons, and subsequently with the Danes and Norsemen, and it would appear that at some unknown period, Legiolium lost not only its Roman name, but its importance as a city, so that when it does emerge again in the ancient records, it is of so little importance as not even to obtain a notice in the Domesday Survey of the 11th century, being probably included with Hochtun (Glass Houghton), which at that time was evidently a place of more importance. We have very few and meagre records of Castleford during those six centuries, and from the fact that no special reference is made to the place in Domesday Book, some antiquarians have asserted that such a place as Castleford did not then exist, having been wiped completely out during the fierce wars which followed the departure of the Romans. One antiquarian claims that all the land on which Castleford is built would then form part of the parish of Methley, which is mentioned in Domesday Book under the name of Madeley, the etymology of the word signifying "the meadows enclosed by two streams;" but this theory has never been established by documentary evidence, and is far from conclusive. We believe there is absolute proof

The Saxon Period

that Castleford did exist when the Domesday Survey was made, though it was of little relative importance. Its ancient name, Chesterford, and later Casterford, is evidently of Saxon origin, and was no doubt derived from the ford across the river, which certainly existed in Roman times, and the Roman castrum or stronghold, which occupied the site of the present Parish Church, or some Saxon castle of a later date; whilst ancient historians, such as Stukeley, state, that they themselves saw in their day the ruined foundations of such a structure near to the south bank of the river.

The absence of the name Casterford from the Domesday Survey, would not of itself be conclusive evidence that the place did not exist at that period. Pontefract, either under its Norman name or its earlier Saxon name of Kirkbye is also absent from the Domesday record, but no one has yet ventured to assert that such a place was not then in existence, for we have undisputed evidence that it did exist under the designation of Kirkbye, it being so referred to in more than one charter made by the first Norman de Lacy who settled there. The etymology of the Saxon name tells us that it was "an habitation near a church."

South Kirkby in the immediate neighbourhood, a place of very great antiquity, and mentioned by name in Domesday, probably received its distinctive title of "South" to distinguish it from its more northerly neighbour. But though neither

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Kirkbye (Pontefract) nor Casterford is mentioned, we have such entries in Domesday as "Queldale (Wheldale) and Frieyatown (Fryston) taxed at 8os., Fereia (Ferrybridge) at 5os., Knuttanlege (Knottingley) at 8os." Tateshalle (Tanshelf) occurs at the part where Kirkbye would be expected, and would include it, and Hoctun (Glass Houghton) now forming part of the parish of Castleford, is recorded where one would expect to find Castleford. Therefore if Tateshalle included Kirkby, the probability is that Hoctun included Castleford, or part of it, for Wheldale seems to have formed part of Fryston. The relative value of the two parishes in Domesday is shewn by the valuation of Tateshalle at 30os., and of Hoctun at 10os., and the De Lacies, at this period lords of both parishes, are occasionally designated in contemporary charters or grants, as "de Kirkbye" as well as "de Pontefract." In Domesday Book the presence of a church at Tateshalle is recorded, but nothing is said about one at Hoctun, though the late Mr. Richard Holmes, the Pontefract antiquarian, as we shall shew presently, locates a church at Castleford, from an entry in the Domesday Survey.

It is clear that Hoctun was in the 11th century a more important place than Casterford, and this has induced topographers to conclude that the latter would be included with Hoctun in the Survey. Even as late as the 17th century Houghton seems to have been the superior village of the

The Saxon Period

two, if we may judge from the early entries in the Castleford Parish Church registers; for the description there of many of the residents of Houghton indicates that they were of decidedly better social standing than those of Castleford. At least one family of some local distinction is mentioned as belonging to Houghton, yet taking their surname from Castleford. Camden, refers to a History of Casterford, by a Thomas de Casterford, who was born at Houghton, educated at and became a monk of St. John's Priory, at Pontefract. Dr. Whitaker, the celebrated antiquarian, prints a pedigree of this family, beginning with a Robertus de Casterford, in 1256, and traces it down for a period of four hundred years to a John Adams of Darley Hall. The public positions held by some of these de Casterfords, as Jurors or Suitors, point them out as being of some distinction. Whitaker states, "Castleford gave name to a family, who, though never seized of the manor, appear to have been of considerable account."

The pedigree of the de Casterfords is given on the following pages.

Pedigree of the De Casterfords

Robertus de Casterford, 1256. (HENRY IV.)

Rogerus de Casterford, 1309

Osbertus de Casterford

Hughnis de Casterford

William de Casterford, 1339
(was seized of the manor of Snytehale)

Johannis de Casterford
(custodiam Johis Snythale)

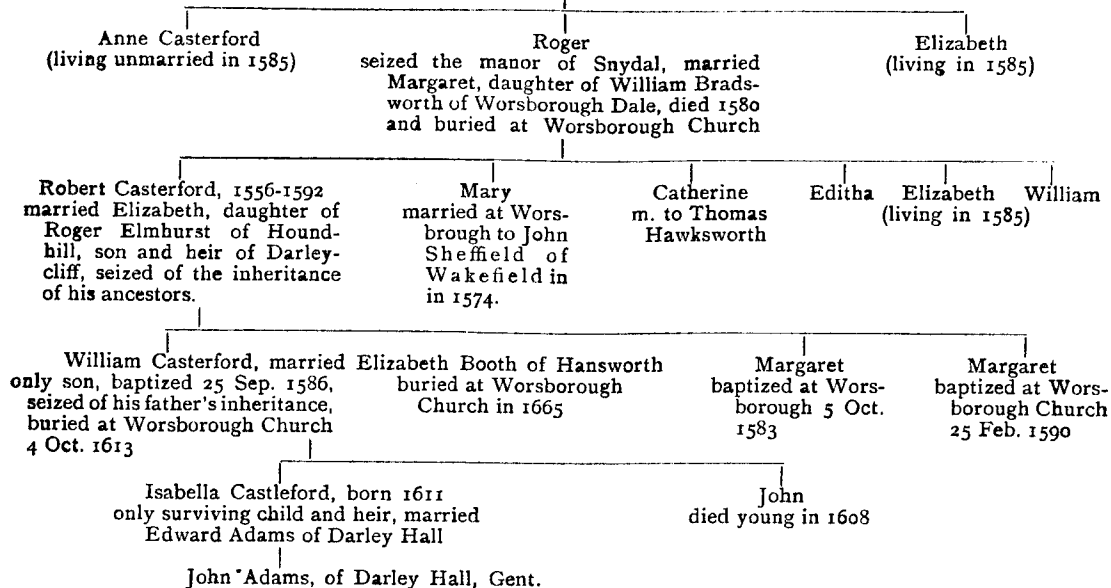
William de Casterford, 1397
(custodiam Margaretæ Tatershal)

Johannis de Casterford
(Veterum Genealogiam)

Thomas de Casterford

Johannis de Casterford, 1495

Alexander de Casterford
(married Anne eldest daughter of Sir Thomas de Rakley)



In the Newland Court Rolls I find the de Casterfords, Thomas, John, Nicholas and Alexander mentioned as Jurors or Suitors from 1482 for above sixty years.

CHAPTER IV

The Kingdom of North-umbria Before the times of the Heptarchy, the northern portions of Britain were divided into a number of small kingdoms, some of them clearly Celtic. A large portion of the West Riding of Yorkshire, including portions of the Castleford district, formed one of these old British kingdoms, viz :—The Kingdom of Elmete, whose capital appears to have been at Barwick-in-Elmet, near Garforth, where may still be seen a huge artificial mound with remains of its trench, and a distinct line of earthworks; also just behind the present church at Kippax, is another specimen consisting of a large circular hill of artificial construction, having round its base the depressions of what was formerly a trench. Quite recently in erecting a new Sunday School close to it, an axe of the Stone Age was discovered, and is now in the possession of the vicar of Kippax. This mound is called by the villagers, “the cheeny basin,” why, they do not know, except that the name has been handed down by their ancestors for centuries. The etymology of the name Kippax confirms the theory that it was once a place of defence, a “keep,” the name originally being

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Chipesch, in later times Keep-Esh, the suffix indicating the presence of some memorable ash tree in close proximity to the "keep." Other examples in this district might be named, all relics of those early days, and those immediately succeeding the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain.

The Venerable Bede tells us in his history, that there long remained surrounded by Saxon paganism, the little Celtic Kingdom of Elmete, which despite the efforts of the Saxons, long defied their military prowess.

Edwine, King of Northumbria, the son of Ella, brought the Kingdom of Elmete under his own dominion by the conquest of the British king, Cerelicus about 620 A.D., and thus the district around Castleford was formed into the Province of Deira, and came to be included in the Kingdom of Northumbria, one of the most extensive, and most powerful of the seven Saxon Kingdoms.

King The advent of the Saxons, who were
Oswald heathens, almost exterminated the Christian religion in Britain; churches were plundered and destroyed, priests were slain even whilst ministering at the altar, and only in the most remote fastnesses of the mountains of Cumberland and Wales was the lamp of Christianity kept burning. But in the reign of Ethelbert, King of Kent, about 597 A.D., Augustine and his forty monks re-introduced the Christian faith, Ethelbert being one of the first converts.

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The beautiful story of Gregory is worth inserting here, as it specially refers to the Province of Deira, which included the Castleford district. About the year 577 A.D. might have been seen in the market-place of Rome a number of English slaves exposed for sale. Among the crowd of on-lookers was one Gregory, whose name was destined to live for ever in the annals of our race. He was then simply a monk of St. Andrew's Monastery, which he had founded with his own money. The fair faces and golden hair of a group of these slaves attracted his attention. "From what country do these slaves come?" he asked the trader who brought them. The slave-dealer answered, "They are English," or as the word ran in the Latin form it would bear at Rome, "they are Angles." The monk's pity veiled itself in poetic humour, "Not Angles, but angels," he said, "with faces so angel-like! From what province come they?" "They come," said the merchant, "from Deira." "De ira!" was the untranslatable word play of the vivacious Roman, "Aye, plucked from God's ire and called to Christ's mercy; and what is the name of their king?" They told him "Ælla" or Ella, and Gregory seized on the word as of good omen. "Alleluia shall be sung in Ælla's land," he said, and passed on. He appealed to the Bishop of Rome to allow him to undertake a mission to these people, but Gregory could not be spared from Rome. Soon afterwards he became Pope, and sent Augustine, a tall, hand-

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some man, from his own monastery, to convert the Angles. About the spring of 597 A.D. Augustine with forty monks landed in Thanet, and commenced his work. Ethelbert, King of Kent, was one of his earliest converts.

Edwin, King of Northumbria, afterwards married Ethelburga, daughter of Ethelbert. She brought with her to the Northumbrian court, her own priest, Paulinus, through whose teaching it is said Edwin was converted, and at an important meeting of his "Witan" or wise men at Goodmanham in Yorkshire, about 627 A.D., they embraced the Christian faith and were baptized.

In 627 A.D., the King of Northumbria, Edwin, and his Witan, announced their conversion, upon which, the grim old pagan Penda, King of Mercia, who adhered to the old faith, invaded Northumbria, and in a great battle fought at Hatfield, near Thorne, in 633 A.D., Edwin was defeated and slain. Osric and Eanfrid, his immediate successors, each in turn died fighting against Penda. Eanfrid was succeeded by Oswald, who, according to Bede, was "an ardent Christian," and whose reign of twenty years was spent in withstanding the inroads of Penda, and in propagating the Christian religion.

The respect and veneration paid to King Oswald in this district entitle him to particular notice. His fame on the battlefield was only eclipsed by his piety and his efforts for the conversion of his people. It seems probable that King Oswald

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honoured this district by his royal presence, judging from the number of churches and priories named after him, in the immediate neighbourhood. He was eventually slain, about 655 A.D. On account of his virtues he was canonized. The most ancient relic in Methley Parish Church is a small monument to this royal saint, to whom the church owes its dedication. This weather-worn statue of St. Oswald is probably of the same date as the older parts of the present edifice. It formerly stood on the gable of the porch, but at the restoration of the church a few years ago it was taken down, and to ensure its preservation was removed to the interior, and built into the wall over the lectern.

The ancient Priory at Nostel was, according to Camden, also dedicated to St. Oswald, as well as many churches in the West Riding; and formerly in the neighbourhood of Pontefract there stood a huge stone cross dedicated to his memory. The Wapentake derives the distinctive part of its title from this circumstance, and hence we get the name Oswaldcross, in Domesday Book Osgodcross, and now corrupted into Osgoldcross.

Defeat of the Mercians The inveterate hatred which Penda cherished against the Northumbrians was rendered still more relentless and malignant by an event which occurred in the reign of Oswio or Oswy, the brother and successor of Oswald. Peada, the son of Penda, on a visit to

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the Northumbrian court, had contracted an affection for the daughter of Oswy, and by her influence had been induced to abandon the heathenism of his ancestors and to embrace Christianity. Penda determined to exact a terrible revenge; at the age of eighty the hoary-headed warrior led his veteran Mercians into Northumbria, with the determination to exterminate the whole population. Oswy found his offers of submission and tribute rejected with disdain; so he assembled his army and advanced to meet the enemy. A battle was fought on Winmoor (Winwaedfield) near Seacroft, where Penda was defeated and slain, and according to the testimony of the Venerable Bede, who was born within twenty years of the event, "more of the Mercians were drowned as they fled, in the river Winwaed, then overflowing its banks, than had fallen by the swords of the Northumbrians." The memory of this decisive victory was long preserved among the Saxons in one of their proverbs, viz:—"In Winwaed's Stream was revenged the deaths of Sigebert and Egeric, of Edwin and Oswald."

Dr. Whitaker, in his valuable history, identifies the "Winwaed's Stream" as the river Went, but later historians dissent from that conclusion, and consider that Bede referred to the river Aire, to the banks of which the fugitives were pursued by the victors.

The Went is an insignificant brook, rather than a river, and could scarcely have caused the destruction spoken of by Bede.

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Towards the close of the 8th century the Northmen began to invest the coasts of Northumbria, and extended their incursions to this district; thus its condition under the later Northumbrian kings must have been deplorable. The whole district was a scene of confusion and carnage, revolution and massacre succeeding each other repeatedly; no less than fourteen kings in the space of one hundred years swayed the Northumbrian sceptre; seven of these were slain; six were driven into exile, and only one died in the peaceable possession of the throne.

Battle at Castleford We have a record of Castleford during this period from Roger de Hovedon or Houeden, who flourished early in the 12th century, which disproves the statement sometimes made by historians that the place called Castleford was not in existence during pre-Norman times. Roger de Hovedon states that King Edred's army here suffered a signal defeat in 948 A.D., the Danes from York under Eric overcoming him in battle, and slaying large numbers of his followers. Some antiquarians have suggested that Red Hill was the site of, and gained its name from this incident, but this is only a local tradition. Hovedon, who wrote within two hundred years of this battle, distinctly states that the Danes (Northumbrians) "attacked Edred on his retreat at Chesterford, as they were crossing the Are." The Venerable Bede states that "King Edred came northwards in 947, as is mentioned in the Saxon

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chronicle, to be acknowledged by the Northumbrian Witan. In the following year, when the Northumbrians revolted, Edred burnt the Abbey of Ripon, which had been held against him, and as he was returning south, the Northumbrians burst out from York, and committed great slaughter upon him at Chesterford," or Casterford, as the old historians mostly name the place. This is said to have been the last struggle between the northern Danes and the Saxons, prior to Northumbria ceasing to be a separate kingdom, and becoming merely an earldom.

Edred died in 955 A.D. and was succeeded by Edwy, whom in 957 A.D. the Northumbrians deposed, electing in his stead Ethling Edgar, a man of strong religious tendencies. We find from an ancient charter, that in 963 A.D. he gave lands at Sherburn to St. Peter's at York.

Another old chronicler records a tradition that during the incursions of the Danes, the inhabitants of Casterford fled for safety to Kirkbye (Pontefract) where there was a Saxon stronghold. This much may be said, that when Pontefract Castle was demolished in 1649 A.D., it was observed that one of the towers stood upon an artificially raised hill of very stiff clay, which had the appearance of having been formerly a fortification of earthworks, similar to some of the old Saxon "keeps."

With regard to the statement which is sometimes found in books, that Castleford obtained its name

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from its ford, and the Castle at Pontefract, the late Mr. Richard Holmes, the Pontefract antiquarian, states in his "Topography of Pontefract," "The obscurity in which the name of Castleford has remained, even among local historians, is somewhat remarkable. It has been gravely put forth that after the decay of the ancient Legiolium, the inhabitants emigrated to Pontefract, and founded it. But this is absurd, for there is historical evidence that the two places were co-existent, and also of a skirmish at Casterford (also known as Chesterford), whence the disaffected Northumbrians attacked the army of Edwin, the Saxon King of England, who had come northwards to receive their submission; which shows that there was a town of Casterford, and so styled, in the 10th century, at least two hundred years before there was any castle at all at Pontefract." But the name Casterford really bears its true etymology on its very face; not Castleford, but Caster,—Castra-ford was the designation; not the ford *near* a castle miles off (the dwellers in which had one more accessible at Ferryfryston), but the ford *by* the camp or castle.

It is equally singular that all writers on the subject profess to have discovered that Casterford is not mentioned in Domesday, though Hoctun (Glass Houghton) is, as follows:—

Pre-Norman Times

PRE-NORMAN.					DOMESDAY.	
Manor.	Tenant.	Caru- cates.	Ploughs.	Value.	Tenant and Ploughs.	Value.
Hoctun	Lewin	6	4	100s.	Ilbert de Lacy 14 villanes 4 bordars	£4.

But what is the translation of this passage in Domesday:—"In Ferestone (Featherstone) and Prestone (Purston) and Osele (which we identify with Castleford) Ligulf, the Saxon owner, had six carucates to be taxed, which six ploughs ma till; there are two churches, being one at Ferestone (Featherstone) and one at Osele."? The next township mentioned is Hoctun (Glass Houghton), to which is ascribed no church; and then comes Queldale (Wheldale) and Friston (Fryston) with one church and a priest, these being in the last named township. Fereia (Ferrybridge) comes next. William de Friston, elder son of Robert de Queldale (Wheldale), son of Gerbodo, possessed land at Queldale and Friston; and then comes Nottingelia (Knottingley), neither of these places having a church or priest.

Mr. Holmes suggests, or asserts that the close vicinity of these places makes it evident that Osele was only the attempt of the Norman scribe to spell the word Casterford, which would have a barbarous sound enough to Norman ears, and he adds that if Osele is not intended for Casterford, there is no other township in the district with which it can be

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identified. We have discovered, however, that the Saxon Ligulf owned not only Featherstone but the adjoining township of Nostel as well, and further, we have found that the name Osele is applied in Saxon times to Nostel, therefore we are of opinion that Osele must be identified with Nostel; and as no church is mentioned at Castleford until one was founded by Henry de Lacy, we may assume that the Norman scribe was quite correct in his entry. But though the Roman Legiolium, or the Saxon Chesterford, Castraforð, Casterford, or Castelleford is not mentioned by name in Domesday, it is probable that part of it was included in Hoctun (Houghton), and part in Queldale (Wheldale), just as Kirkbye (Pontefract) was included in Tateshale (Tanshelf).

Hoctun was owned by Leuin or Lewin at the time of the Conquest, and had a taxable area of six carucates, and was able to employ four ploughs, and to contribute 100s. to the royal revenue. At the time of the Domesday Survey Ilbert held in demesne sufficient to employ three ploughs and fourteen villanes, while three bordars employed six ploughs; but the revenue had decreased to 80s. That Castleford existed in later Saxon times is proved clearly from many sources, and it may fairly be assumed to be largely included with Hoctun.

We have searched diligently among ancient and musty records, and read what documents we could discover, but find few references to Castleford

Pre-Norman Times

during these six centuries of Saxon rule.

The History of Castleford by Thomas de Casterford, already alluded to, who flourished in or about 1326, and whose book was in existence and referred to by Leland in 1552, and by Camden in 1603, might, nay, would have thrown some light upon Castleford during those Saxon times, for Leland informs us that "this monk was a diligent searcher after antiquities," and he himself confesses that he collected many things from his writings. He passes this eulogy upon him—"Having spent almost all his Days in that Monastery, he, like a grateful Inhabitant, found out all the antiquities of the Place, and transmitted them to Posterity by the Titles of the History of Casterford, and the Acts of the said Monastery;" but unfortunately for us, the writings of the said Thomas de Casterford appear to have perished altogether.

We learn, however, from other historians, something of the social condition of the Saxon people. Whatever honour may be attached to the names of some of their monarchs, whatever may have been the reputation of some of their institutions, they were essentially a people factious because they were ignorant, vicious because they were superstitious, and vindictive because they were oppressed. History, it is true, may extol the patriotism of Alfred, the policy of Athelstan, the power of Edgar, the valour of Edmund, and the piety of Edward the Confessor; but after all, the gloomy ages of

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misery and devastation which rolled over the district during the Saxon domination were relieved by but infrequent gleams of prosperity and peace, and there is little in these Saxon times to be really admired or imitated.

CHAPTER V

The Norman Period Coming down to the Norman Conquest during the 11th century, we find the Conqueror dividing the country amongst his barons, and extending the Feudal System. On Ilbert de Lacy he bestowed as many as a hundred and ninety-three lordships in the West Riding, besides others in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. For a long period forward the history of Castleford is bound up with the history of Pontefract Castle and the De Lacies.

The Feudal System Under the Feudal System, the king was the sole proprietor and freeholder of the land, some of which he gave to his barons on certain conditions, the chief of which was that in time of war, or civil commotion, they must furnish him with a number of armed men proportioned to the extent and value of their estates. The barons sublet portions of their land on like conditions ; for example, we find in Domesday Book that at "Chipesch (Kippax) and Ledestone (Ledstone) Ilbert de Lacy had twelve ploughs and forty-eight villanes." Villanes were of an intermediate grade between serfs and bordarii, holding small portions of land at the will of their lord, and

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were bound to render to him what service he demanded. Thus the great body of Saxon freeholders were deprived of their lands, and subjected to this new species of tenure.

Ilbert de Lacy selected the rising ground at Pontefract for his castle, a stronghold which was completed in 1080, and was destined for nearly six centuries to dominate this district and to play an important part in the history of England.

The castle combined the characteristics of fortress and palace, and with its court-yard covered an area of about seven acres. The walls were strong and high, flanked by seven massive towers. A deep moat protected the western side, where were also the barbican and drawbridge. The castle was not commanded by any contiguous hill, and was therefore practically impregnable, and could only be taken by blockade.

Origin of the name The word "Pontefract" is Norman, and its etymology signifies "broken or fractured bridge."

Leland as early as 1540 assumes that it obtained its name from some such ruined structure in the neighbourhood, and the historian Camden as late as 1622 in his "Britannia" accepts the same supposition, and comments on an extract which he takes from the "History of Casterford" by the Benedictine Monk, Thomas de Casterford, relative to the origin of the name, as follows:—"The name Pontefract, Pontefractus, or Pomfret arose from the

The Broken Bridge

following incident :—William, Archbishop of York, and son of the sister of King Stephen, on his return from a pilgrimage to Rome, was met by such crowds of people who pressed upon him to receive his blessing, that a wooden bridge over the river "Are" gave way, and precipitated a vast number of people into the water. The Archbishop poured out his prayers with such fervour and success, that not one person perished. To perpetuate so striking a miracle, the pious Normans gave the name Pontefract to the village of Kirkbye."

Unfortunately for the credit of this story, York, amongst other places, claims the honour of this miracle. Still more decisive is the established fact that in a charter granted to the Monks of St. John's Priory by Robert de Lacy, some fifty years earlier than the Archbishop's time, that Norman baron is designated as Robert de Pomfret, and subsequent antiquarians assert that the original Monks of St. John's came from Pomfreit, or Pomfrey, in Normandy, and named the site of their Monastery after their Norman home, while other antiquarians have thought that Ilbert de Lacy himself was a native of Pomfreit. So that these investigations, coupled with the fact that there is no evidence of any bridge being here in Saxon times, completely demolish the interesting story of Thomas de Casterford. For a long time after the coming of Ilbert de Lacy, both the names of Pontefract and Kirkbye were in use, for both names occur in the early

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grants of privileges to the Monks settled at the place.

After so great an agitation as that produced by the advent of the Normans, some years elapsed before the country could be restored to harmony. The inhabitants of the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria, still cherishing their wonted spirit of independence, were among the last to bow their necks to the Norman yoke.

While William the Conqueror was absent in Normandy, his followers exasperated the natives beyond all endurance, by their vexatious exactions, their cruelties and their crimes, so that the war-like inhabitants of the north rose in arms, with the great Earls Morcar and Edwin (the latter owned the district north of Castleford at the time of the Conquest) at their head, expelled the Norman garrison at York, and slew the governor and many of his retainers. William determined to exact a terrible revenge. It was along the old Watling Street in 1067 that he marched his armies, but at Castleford he was detained three weeks by an inundation of the Aire; when the waters had subsided, he crossed the ford and marched to Sherburn, making that town the base for his military operations. He laid siege to York, and levelled its magnificent and extensive buildings to the ground, putting the garrison, with most of the inhabitants, to the sword. With a barbarity difficult

Revolt of Northumbria

to describe, he scattered his armed retainers over the country in small divisions and commanded them to spare neither man nor beast, to destroy the houses, the corn, the implements of husbandry, and whatever was essential to the support of life. The old chroniclers state that one hundred thousand men, women and children were slain, and one of the most fertile regions in Britain was transformed into a desolate wilderness. This revolting fact is placed beyond dispute by the entries in Domesday Book, which describe many of the places which it enumerates as "depopulated and waste." Sherburn alone was spared the scenes of slaughter and desolating violence, for the King had a respectful care for the home of Archbishop Aldred, who had crowned William in Westminster Abbey. He was the last Saxon Archbishop of York. Twice the Conqueror marched through this district after the destruction of York; and the Northumbrians who escaped the sword were left in stern repose; for nearly a century, the ancient chronicler tells us, "wild fowl screamed and wild cattle roamed unmolested through these ancient solitudes, the scanty Norse-bred population coerced into silence, and feeling that under these new Norman governors their history was as good as ended."

Some time afterwards the Conqueror founded the Abbey of Selby, and to provide a revenue for its maintenance, he diverted part of the income of neighbouring churches to it; among these grants

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is one which the King obtained from the Archbishop of York, transferring the tithes of his lands at Fryston to Selby Abbey. When the Conqueror, accompanied by his queen, visited Selby in order to settle the endowment of the Abbey, the queen gave birth to a son at this place, who subsequently became King of England, by the title of Henry the First.

Lands of Ilbert de Lacy The following entries, copied from Domesday Book (1080—1086) will give some idea of the value of the townships in this district, with the names of the Saxon owners just prior to the Norman invasion:—

In Tateshale (including apparently both Tanshelf and Carleton) Ilbert had there 4 ploughs, 16 cottars, 16 villanes and 8 bordars who had among them 18 ploughs; there is a church there and a priest, a fishery and 3 mills, rendering 42 shillings; and 16 carucates of land, woody pasture a leuga long and a half-leuga broad, in Edward's reign valued at 400 shillings, now 300s.

In Chipesch (Kippax) and Ledestune (Ledstone) Earl Edwin Morcar had 18 carucates for geld and 10 ploughs may be there. To this manor belongs land which properly is called Bereuuit (Barwick-in-Elmete) in which are 8 carucates for geld and 4 ploughs may be there. To this manor belongs this soke:—

Alretune (Allerton Bywater)	6 carucates,
Prestune (Preston)	6 „

Lands of Ilbert de Lacy

Swilligtune (Swillington)	3 carucates,
Gereforde (Garforth)	1½ „

In Gereforde also, Ernui had 7 carucates of land for gelt and 4 ploughs may be there. A church and a priest; was worth 60s. now 30s.

In Swilligtune, Dunstan and Ode had 9 carucates for gelt and 5 ploughs may be there; was worth 80s. now 10s.

In Fareburne, Ligulf had 2½ carucates of land for gelt, and 2 ploughs may be there.

In Ledesha (Ledsham) there are 2 carucates of land for gelt and 1 plough; now 2 villanes and 3 bordars are there with 2 ploughs. (Bordars were boors or husbandmen. Their condition was less servile than that of villanes, and they held their tenements or lands on condition that they should supply their lords with poultry and other small provisions for his family and retainers).

In Witewode (Whitwood) Ligulf had 8 carucates of land for gelt; land for 4 ploughs. Now Roger of Altofts has it of Ilbert; 3 ploughs are there and 4 villanes with one bordar. Formerly worth 40s. now it is worth 20s.

Ferestane (Featherstone) Prestone (Purston) Ard-uwic (Hardwick) and Osele (Nostel) Ligulf had 16 carucates of land for gelt and 6 ploughs. There are two churches and two priests.

In Hoctun (Glass Houghton) Leuin or Lewin had 6 carucates of land for gelt, and 4 ploughs may be there. Now Ilbert has 3 ploughs there,

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and 14 villanes, and 4 bordars having 6 ploughs, it was worth 100s. now £4.

In Queldale (Wheldale) and Fristune (Fryston), Gamel had 7 carucates of land for gelt, where 5 ploughs may be. Now Gerbodo has them of Ilbert. He has 3 ploughs there, and 4 villanes and 1 bordar having 4 ploughs and a half. A church is there and a priest, and 24 acres of meadow. They were worth £4, now 30s.

In Fereia (Ferrybridge) Suuan had 5 carucates of land for gelt, where 4 ploughs may be. Now Hamelin has it of Ilbert. He has there 2 ploughs and 3 villanes with 2 ploughs, and 3 acres of meadow. It was worth 50s. Now 20s.

In Nottingeleia (Knottingley) Baret had 4 carucates of land for gelt and 4 ploughs may be there. Now Rannulf has it of Ilbert. He has there one plough and a half, and 6 villanes, and two bordars with one plough and a half. Wood pasturable half a leuga in length, and 4 quarenteens in breadth. It was worth £4, now 40s.

In Medelai (Methley) Osulf and Cnut had 8 carucates of land for gelt, where 5 ploughs may be. Ilbert has 17 villanes and 5 bordars there with 5 ploughs. Wood pasturable one leuga in length and one in breadth. A church is there and a priest. Was worth 60s., now 40s.

In Aitone (Ackton) Ligulf had 3 carucates of land for gelt, where 2 ploughs may be, now William (brother of Roger of Altofts) has it of

Lands of Ilbert de Lacy

Ilbert. He has half a plough there, and 2 villanes and 6 bordars with one plough and a half. Was worth 10s., now worth the same.

CHAPTER VI

" In Norman strength that abbey frown'd,
With massive arches broad and round,
That rose alternate row on row
On ponderous columns, short and low."—*Scott*.

The Rise of the Monasteries. The settlement of the Norman barons, and the rise of the Norman castles, were contemporary with the rise of the monasteries and other religious houses, the ruins of which still enhance the beauty of many an English landscape, and whose massive Norman architecture still serves to recall something of their former majesty and strength.

" Diffused in every part,
Spirit divine through forms of human art,
Faith had her arch,—her arch when winds blew loud,
In the consciousness of safety thrill'd;
And Love her towers of dread foundation, laid
Under the grave of things."—*Wordsworth*.

The Priory of St. John at Pontefract, of which nothing now remains, St. Oswald's Priory at Nostel, and the magnificent Abbey at Kirkstall, were all founded during this early Norman period.

A complete monastery generally included besides the church—



Newton Abbey
Near Castleford

The Rise of the Monasteries

1.—A cloister court, off which were placed the chapter house, with the sacristy and the dormitories adjoining; the cellarge was often placed under the dormitory. On the opposite side to the church were the refectory and kitchens.

2.—An inner court, with infirmary, guest house and library.

3.—A common court, with gateway for carts, and surrounded by the granary, bakehouse, tribunal, prison and Abbot's lodging.

4.—The close, containing the workshops, gardens and orchard.

The Monks, according to their several orders, followed different pursuits.

The Benedictine was the chronicler, and most learned.

The Augustinian favoured preaching and disputations.

The Cistercian was the recluse, the friend of the poor, interested in agriculture and industrial pursuits.

The Carthusians were the ascetics. By the rules of the order, speech was interdicted and the monks were to work, eat and drink in solitude.

The Friars were the missionary preachers of the period.

Newton Priory The relic of a monastery still remains close to Castleford, in the scanty ruins of Newton Priory, near to the footpath leading from Castleford to Newton village. It was evidently

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but a very small settlement, respecting which we have been unable to obtain any authentic records, and would humbly suggest (though we are treading on debatable ground), that it may have had some connection with the Priory of St. John at Pontefract, as we find from an old charter, under the signature of Robert de Pontefract (date 1106), and subsequently confirmed by Henry de Lacy, that the whole of the land at Ledstone was given to the Monks of St. John, and it is just possible that Newton Priory may have owed its origin to that grant. The suggestion we merely give for what it is worth, there are no records to be got at, and we cannot hope now to unravel its history, which lies for ever dead and buried. No Monk Jocelinus or Abbot Samson has left us any account of the part it played in its day of power and influence. Little remains of it to-day, except one corner of massive masonry, though we can yet distinguish the moat that once surrounded it, and an examination of the mouldering foundations of the structure still gives a fairly correct idea of its ground plan.

Monastic ruins always have a peculiar fascination for the intelligent observer. We have only to exercise our imagination in order to re-people them with the monks, the eremites, and the devotees of the Olden Times. Thomas Carlyle in his "Past and Present," and Froude in his "History of an English Monastery," have given us striking pictures of the mode of life these people followed, and the

The Rise of the Monasteries

influential part these monastic institutions once played in the history of our race.

Probably no system connected with Christianity has been more powerful in its day than the Monastic. In dark and turbulent times, the cloister was often the only refuge of the oppressed, the sole depository of learning, and the sole guardian of religion. In later times it doubtless was too often conspicuous as the chief foe to liberty, and the chief maintainer of the *letter* rather than the *spirit* of the gospel; still, those who are least anxious to have the Monastic Orders again dominant in the land, cannot ignore the services which they once rendered, nor, however ill-adapted we may deem them for the adult life of our nation, can we fail to remember that in its infancy, they were not seldom its nursing fathers. Though we can never know anything of the chronicles of Newton Priory, we may be assured that it had a history, and judging from what we know of similar religious houses, we may be confident that in by-gone times it was a place where good men prayed, feasted and fasted; where the poor received succour, the student instruction, and the dying consolation. When bluff King Henry the Eighth laid his rough hands upon the monasteries, and deprived them of their vast revenues, the buildings gradually fell into disuse and decay, and Time, "all-conquering Time," has now for many centuries laid its destroying hand upon the ancient fabrics, leaving us little except

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heaps of ruins, and fragments of carved masonry to indicate their previous existence and their glory.

The Judging from documents still extant we
Priory of can form some idea of the wealth of the
St. John Priory of St. John at Pontefract. It stood on the rising ground still known as Monkhill, and was founded in 1090, in the reign of William the Second, by Robert de Lacy (called also Robert de Pontefract, from his having been born there), and from its reputation, must have been a place of considerable extent and importance.

When Robert de Lacy incurred the disfavour of Henry the First, the latter deprived him of his possessions, and gave the estate to Hugh de Laval, who renewed all the charters already granted to the monks, and augmented their sources of revenue, by making considerable new grants. Amongst many others we find that in the neighbourhood of Castleford, the Monks of St. John became possessed of the following lands and privileges:—

One carucate of land at Altofts given by William Folioth. A carucate was as much land as one plough (charrue) with its cattle could keep in tillage.

At Casterford two mills were given by Hugh de Laval, which grant Henry de Lacy afterwards confirmed when the honour of Pontefract was restored to the De Lacies. William Folioth also gave one carucate of land lying before the castle at Casterford (another proof that a castle did exist here as late as the time of Henry the First.)

The Priory of St. John

At Fairburn, one Ada gave half an oxgang of land to supply the Monks of St. John with bread and wine, when they celebrated mass for the redemption from purgatory of his soul and the souls of his wife, parents and friends. (An oxgang was as much land as a single pair of oxen would suffice for).

At Ferryfield (Ferrybridge) one Jordan de Sancta Maria gave a meadow to the monastery, also one at Frystune (Fryston).

Robert de Lacy gave the whole of his lands at Witewode (Whitwood) to the priory, also the fishery from Witewode to Queldale (Wheldale).

On the whole, therefore, the Monks of St. John appear in those times to have received no small revenue from Casterford and the adjacent districts.

The following are translations of two charters by which we find Peckfield and Ledsham to be of some historical importance.

The first is dated 1140 (time of King Stephen) :—
“Roger by the grace of God Archbishop of York, to all the faithful in Christ, greeting and pontifical benison; we ought to have our consideration to such requests as are just, hence it is that we have decreed to provide for the monks at Pontefract that profess a monastic life, and for their successors, against the malice of their enemies, corroborating by our authority all these things which are reasonably given and granted unto them by their patrons, Robert de Lacy, son of Ilbert, and Henry de Lacy, and by other faithful,

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namely, the site of their place in Pontefract, the towns of Ledston and Peckfield, and the moiety of the town of Ledsham, which they hold by the fine of the Chapter of York. Hereof are witnesses, Henry de Lacy, by whose kind petition we consecrate the monastery aforesaid, and have corroborated all the things aforesaid in the day of the dedication by the authority of this our present writing."

The second is dated 1155:—"Henry, King of England, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou, to the archbishops &c. greeting. Know ye that I have granted, and by this my present charter, have confirmed to God and the Holy Church of St. John, Pontefract, and to the monks there serving God, all the gifts of lands, men and alms which are reasonably made unto them, viz:—the site of their church at Pontefract, and all the land in Peckfield, viz: two parts in perpetual alms, and the other parts by a fine of 16d. yearly, &c.:—and all these things I have confirmed and granted to them in pure and perpetual alms for the soul of my grandfather, King Henry, and for the souls of myself and my ancestors and successors. These being witnesses, Thomas, the Chancellor, Henry de Lacy, at Northampton."

From this time the Priory continued to hold lands, perhaps with some degree of aggression, as we find in Edward the Third's time, date 1341, that a "William de Flexton obtained judgment

The Priory of St. John

against the Prior of Pontefract and another, for his common pasture in 120 acres of moor in Peckfield belonging to the free tenement of William de Micklefield."

The following is taken from Sir G. F. Duckett's "Visitations of English Cluniac Foundations," and is of sufficient interest, as giving us a glimpse of the condition of the Priory in the 13th century, to justify its insertion. This visitation was made by order of Yves de Chassant, Abbot of Cluni, the Prior of Mont-Didier, in France, and the English Prior of Lenton. The Visitors of Inspection left the Priory of Monk-Bretton on September 8th, 1279 (Edward I.) and their report translated into English proceeds:—"The same day we came on to Pontefract, where the brethren number 27, including the Prior. They properly conduct and devoutly perform the Divine offices, leading also honest and commendable lives. The conventual buildings are well roofed and in good repair, and the Prior has added to them; the church is good, as also its ornamentation. As to its temporal wants, in respect of food or provisions, they are both abundant and sufficient until the next harvest. On his first appointment the Prior found the liabilities of the house to amount to 3,200 marks. It is twelve years since he first took it over, and now the debt is reduced to 350 marks, or even less; and this the Prior affirmed in the presence of the whole convent, in which all that community

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agreed. In addition to this, the Prior has obtained a small property of 2 carucates of land, which seems to be a profitable acquisition. Moreover, fifteen years ago the convent incurred an obligation of 400 marks, for which it made itself liable for the Priory of Monk-Bretton; but it holds bonds and written securities from that house, by which the latter indemnify and protect it against loss."

CHAPTER VII

"The battled towers, the donjon keep,
The loophole grates where captives weep."—*Scott*.

As the history of Castleford and district is bound up with the history of Pontefract Castle for some time forward from the Conquest, it seems fitting to give here a brief account of the De Lacies and subsequent owners of the castle and honour of Pontefract.

Ilbert The extensive tract of country around
de Lacy this neighbourhood was given by the Conqueror to one of his barons named Ilbert de Lacy, who commenced to build the castle, which was finished about the year 1080. During the next reign Ilbert founded within the castle grounds St. Clement's Chapel, as a place of worship for himself and his retainers. This chapel was destroyed during the Civil War, 1648, but the foundations may still be seen. Who were the ancestors of this Ilbert de Lacy, or what special services he had rendered to the Conqueror to obtain the grant of so many lordships, we know not. The personal history of these great Norman barons during the first century of their possession is chiefly gathered from the charters which they granted to religious foundations, but as the era of the monasteries had

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not fully set in during the lifetime of Ilbert, this source of information is denied us. We cannot trace in history anything to give us any clue that will enable us to say what manner of man he was. He lived in this neighbourhood for at least twenty years, the lord of a vast extent of country. He died, we know neither when nor where with certainty, and his vast possessions descended to his **Robert de son Robert**, commonly called **Robert de Pontefract** Pontefractus, who, about 1060, founded a monastery at Pontefract. It is difficult to judge whether he founded this place as the result of personal piety, or whether he was merely following the fashion of the times, for this was a grand era for the erection of ecclesiastical buildings, and the reason is not far to seek, for Simeon of Durham writing of Northumbria in 1074 says:—"But indeed after the most cruel devastation of the Pagans (the Danes) had reduced the churches and monasteries to ashes by the sword and fire, and Christians had almost perished, scarcely any churches, and nowhere any monasteries had been built for two hundred years; the devotion of faith gradually growing cold, and religious worship altogether ceasing; the name of monks was unheard among the inhabitants of these provinces, who were filled with amazement when they saw anyone adopting a monkish habit and mode of life." Following upon such a state of things, the Normans found that the ruined churches required rebuilding, and that they did

The De Lacies

this work nobly is attested by the considerable remains of Norman architecture to be found in our old churches, such as Birkin, Campsall, Sherburn and Kippax.

The life of Robert de Pontefract was not a peaceful one. On the death of William Rufus in 1100, Henry, the youngest son of William the Conqueror, seized the crown during the absence of his elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, in the First Crusade. When Duke Robert returned from the Holy Land, he at once laid claim to the throne of England, by right of birth, and amongst the nobles who espoused his cause was Robert de Pontefract. Henry defeated his brother at the battle of Tenchebrai in Normandy, in the year 1106, annexed Normandy to the English crown, and imprisoned Duke Robert in Cardiff Castle, where in 1134 he died, after an imprisonment of twenty-eight years.

Henry the First took vengeance on the barons who had supported the claims of Duke Robert, and Robert de Pontefract was deprived of the castle and honour of Pontefract, and banished the realm. His vast estates were bestowed by the King on Hugh de Laval, why, we do not know, but it was probably as a reward for his active opposition to the claims of Duke Robert.

Hugh This Norman baron appears to have
de Laval been very generous to the religious houses, and we have many charters of his grants

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of land and privileges to the Monks of St. John, as well as endowments to many of the Norman churches which were being reared in the neighbouring villages. It is of some interest to find that in one of these charters the old name of Kirkbye is applied to Pontefract, so that as late as 1120 we see that the Saxon name was still in use.

After Hugh de Laval's death, the estates were given by the King to a William Maltravers, who was soon after assassinated by a certain knight named Paganus, his own liege man, according to the account given by Richard of Hexam. Another chronicler named John of Hexham gives his version as follows:—"This man (Ilbert de Lacy the Second) and his father, Robert de Lacy (or Pontefract) had been banished by King Henry from the Kingdom of England. But the King being dead, a certain Paganus, a Knight of the Honour, slew William Transversus (*i.e.* Maltravers) who by the King's gift defended that Honour, that is to say, Pontefract, and this Ilbert took possession of the Honour by right of inheritance."

Ilbert de Lacy (2nd.) Thus we find that Robert de Pontefract had died in exile, but Stephen, who had usurped the crown of England after the death of Henry the First, restored the estates to Ilbert, the son of the banished Robert, who rose high in favour with King Stephen, having supported his claim against Matilda, the daughter of Henry the First. David, King of Scotland, uncle of

The De Lacies

Matilda, took up arms against Stephen and invaded the country. We find Ilbert de Lacy with his retainers taking part in the Battle of the Standard in 1138. In 1141 Stephen was taken prisoner at Lincoln, and as Ilbert is known to have been there with him, he may have there met his doom. The evidence as to his fate is not clear. All we can say is that he disappears, childless, and sinks into an unknown grave, leaving as his heir his brother, Henry de Lacy.

Henry de Lacy Henry de Lacy obtained from Henry the Second, who succeeded King Stephen, a charter to hold an annual fair at Pontefract, to commence on St. Giles' Day, September 1st. He is said to have built a church at Castleford, for the first mention of Castleford Church occurs at this period. He also founded St. Giles' Church at Pontefract, and that of St. Botolph's at Knottingley, neither of which had a church in the time of the Domesday Survey. His greatest work was the foundation of the magnificent Abbey at Kirkstall in 1153, at which place he was eventually buried in 1187.

Robert de Lacy He was succeeded by his only son, Robert de Lacy, who died five years later without issue, and with him expired the male line of the De Lacy family of warriors. The De Lacies had possessed the district for over a century, and had restored the old Saxon churches of the neighbourhood, and founded others. They had

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founded the Cluniac Priory of Pontefract, the Augustinian Monastery of Nostel and the Cistercian Abbey of Kirkstall, foundations which no doubt did much to foster a spirit of piety in the early days of their power and influence.

Roger de Lacy After the early death of Robert de Lacy, the honour of Pontefract descended to Aubrey de Lisours, his half-sister, who was married to Richard Fitz-Eustace, Constable of Chester. Their two sons accompanied Richard the First on the Third Crusade. The elder son, John, is said to have died in Palestine, while the younger, Roger, who assumed the name of De Lacy, returned and inherited the estates. We find him levied at forty-five pounds towards the ransom of King Richard from his German prison in 1194. Roger de Lacy for some reason or other, was soon deprived of Pontefract Castle by King Richard, and appears to have died in exile about the year 1211. In the following reign, however, King John

John de Lacy allowed John de Lacy, the son of Roger, to succeed to his rightful patrimony. We find later that this John de Lacy was one of the barons who joined with Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, to compel King John to sign Magna Charta in 1215. About this time one Peter of Pomfret, a poor hermit, had foretold that King John should lose his crown "this very year" (1213), for which rash prediction the unfortunate hermit was "trailed" at the tails of

Robin Hood

horses, and afterwards hanged upon a gibbet.

Here is a glimpse of the district in a charter dated 17th John 1216, relating to the founding of a Prebend at Wistow, near Sherburn, to which was granted the tithe of corn and pulse of Fryston, Fareburn and Hillam.

Robin Hood About this period lived the famous Robin Hood, the bold outlaw and skilful archer, commonly reported as one of the numerous claimants to the Earldom of Huntingdon. At Wakefield is still pointed out the place where he fought with George a Green, pinder or "pound-keeper" of that ancient township. For many years Robin roamed through the forests from Sherwood to York, plundering many a fat abbot, but befriending the poor, who long afterwards regarded his exploits with pride. This district seems to have been one of his favourite resorts, for near Wentbridge he is said to have robbed the Bishop of Hereford, and afterwards to have made him dance on the spot. In honour of Robin Hood there is a well called after him, situated midway between Ferrybridge and Doncaster, on the Great North Road. In olden times to name a well after any person was to confer very great honour, and the presence of this structure shows how much the memory of Robin Hood was cherished by the common people. The grave of this outlaw is at Kirklees, near Dewsbury. The cross or obelisk under which he is buried can still be seen, but it bears no inscription. Tradition

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says that a tombstone in front, which has ceased to exist, contained the following epitaph:—

"Hear, undernead dis Latil Stean
Laiz Robert, Earl of Huntington ;
Nea Arcir Ver as hie so geud.
And pipl Kauld him Robin Hadd
Sick utlaur as hi an iz men,
Vil Inglande nivr si agen."

Resuming our sketch of the De Lacies, we find that John de Lacy joined the Crusades, returned, and died at Pontefract about 1240, leaving the **Edmund de Lacy** estates to his son, Edmund de Lacy, who in turn was succeeded by his son and heir, Henry, the last of the De Lacies.

There is a deed in the Pontefract Chartulary under date April, 1248, by which Richard Wallensis for his soul's health confirmed the following gifts to the Monks of St. John. "Two bovates of land in Friston, the gift of William de Friston, and the meadow which the monks had in Ferryfield, of the gift of Jordan de St. Mary, and the Lady Alice Haget his wife."

William de Friston was returned in the time of Henry the Second as holding three Knight's fees under Hugh de Laval and two under Henry de Lacy. 35 Henry III. 1250, the King granted to Edmund de Lacy free warren in all his demesne Lands of the Manors of Pontefract, Castleford, Methley &c. in the Co. of York.

The De Lacies

Henry de Lacy This Henry de Lacy was greatly trusted by and filled many important positions under King Edward the First. Baliol, who was one of the many claimants to the Scottish throne, appealed to Edward to further his claim, and while the English King was preparing for the invasion of Scotland, Baliol was lodged for six months at Sandal Castle, near Wakefield. During Edward's absence on the Scotch expedition, his queen, Margaret, resided at Pontefract Castle. She was taken suddenly ill while out with a hunting party, and at Brotherton gave birth to her fifth son, who is known in history as Thomas de Brotherton; he became Earl of Norfolk and Marshal of England, from whom is descended the noble family of Howard. The house where this prince was born stood near the church at Brotherton village, within an enclosure of about twenty acres, and was for a long period expressly preserved, being surrounded by a trench and a strong stone wall. Parts of this old hall still remain, but all trace of the wall which once encompassed the structure has disappeared. The hall was long the residence of the Tindall family, who acquired some note in the 16th century. Whitaker prints a pedigree of the family in his "Loides and Elmete."

CHAPTER VIII

Henry de Lacy died in 1310; his two sons having pre-deceased him, the estates descended to his daughter Alice, who was married to Thomas, **Thomas**, Earl of Lancaster, the grandson of **Earl of** Henry the Third, and nephew of Edward **Lancaster** the Second. Thus this branch of the royal family became established at Pontefract, and for the next two centuries the Lancastrian influence was paramount in this neighbourhood.

Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was strongly opposed to the worthless favourites of Edward the Second, and along with other nobles was instrumental in having Gaveston beheaded as a public enemy. He thus incurred the fierce enmity of the King. He as strongly opposed the De Spencers, whom the King next took into his favour, and headed the northern nobles in a revolt against the King. Their united forces assembled at Sherburn in 1321, drew up an instrument of confederation, and swore not to lay down their arms until they had destroyed the power and influence of the Spencers. A very complete programme of vengeance was now carried out, for the King, enraged at the conduct of Lancaster, marched an army to the north, and

Thomas, Earl of Lancaster

seized Pontefract Castle. He sent forward his troops under the Earls of Surrey and Kent to meet the rebels, and a battle was fought near Borough-bridge, which ended in favour of the King. The Earl of Lancaster and many other nobles were taken prisoners.

When the news reached Edward at Pontefract, he gave orders for the Earl to be brought before him, and Lancaster was at once condemned to death. In sight of his own castle, on the rising ground just to the north, now known as St. Thomas Hill, the gallant Lancaster was beheaded. The bodies of his fellow sufferers were quartered, but as the Earl was of royal birth, his body was given to the monks for burial. The blood of the slaughtered Earl cried aloud for vengeance; his memory was long revered by the common people, because of his liberality to the religious houses, and his opposition to a weak and worthless king. He was regarded as a martyr in the cause of liberty, and though never canonized by the church, was yet remembered by the title of Saint Thomas. On the spot where he was beheaded, there was afterwards founded the Chantry of St. Thomas, which is described as presenting an appearance of grandeur, and contained monuments to the memory of St. Edmund and Thomas de Brotherton. No trace of the edifice now exists, though the site, near which now stands a windmill, still bears its name.

Exactly five hundred years after the execution

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of Lancaster, whilst two labourers were trenching the land for liquorice-beds on St. Thomas Hill, one of them struck his spade against a stone coffin, which, on examination, was found to contain in excellent preservation, the skeleton of a man with the skull placed between the thigh bones. In the place where the head should have been in an un-mutilated body, was a stone. There was every probability that here were the decapitated remains of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. They were taken charge of by the Milnes family, who enclosed them first in a wooden coffin, and then in one of zinc, and the whole placed in the original stone coffin, were removed to the grounds of Fryston Hall, where they still remain. During a visit paid to Fryston Hall in the summer of 1903, we carefully examined this historic relic. The rough-hewn stone coffin, we were told, weighed one and a half tons, and is seven feet long and three feet deep. On lifting a loose triangular part of the stone lid, the enclosed zinc coffin can be seen.

According to the will of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, the castle and honour of Pontefract were to descend to his brother Henry, Earl of Lincoln, but the King retained possession until his own deposition and subsequent murder in 1327 at Berkeley Castle.

Here are a few glimpses of the district culled from various old records:—

Among the escheats of Edward the Second,

Edward the Third

dated 1311, we find a list of estates formed by Godfrey de Melsa, and learn that this person was "possessed of the manors of Fenton (Church Fenton), Huddleston, four acres of meadow at Byrkyn (Birkin), and three acres in Fairburn, for the custody of which Thomas de Merton paid a fine of £100 to the King."

2nd.—Edward the Third, 1328. "The King granted to Robert de Wodehouse, Keeper of the Hospitall of St. Nicholas at Pontefract, free warren in all his demeasne Lands of Methley, Castelford and Hoghton in the County of Yorke."

5th.—Edward III., 1331. "It is not to the damage of the Lord the King if he give liberty to Henry le Vavasour, that he may give the Advowson of the church of Waterfryston nere Pontefract, to the Keeper of the house of the Vicars of the Church of St. Peter of Yorke."

The following, taken out of the Melton Register (folio 193, page 204) is interesting, and difficult to explain, as it is the only record we have come across as to the existence of a church or chapel at Queldale (Wheldale). It is dated 10 March, 1332, and runs as follows:—"The Archbishop of Yorke appropriated the Church of Friston to the Vicars Choral of the Church of St. Peter's of Yorke, of the guift of Sir Henry Vavasor, Knight, by the King's concent. The Vicar shall have 18 acres in the town of Friston with the moyety of the meadow there belonging to the Church of St. Andrew of

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Friston upon Ayre; and 14 acres of Land in the town of Queldale with the moyety of the meadow there belonging to the said church, with the medowes, feedings and pastures &c. The said Vicar is to find a chaplaine at his owne costs and charges, to celebrate three times a week in the chappell of Queldale to uphold and sustaine the chantry for the future, in like manner as the rector of the church of Friston was wont or ough to have done formerly."

"One is led at first to assume that the chapel at Wheldale was the church mentioned in Domesday as being in one of the grouped manors of Queldale and Friston. But clearly such was not the case, for this appropriation bears distinct evidence of the existence of the chapel at Wheldale as a foundation separate from the Domesday church at Fryston. Wheldale chapel, which was probably founded after the Domesday Survey, is now obliterated, its site is covered with farm buildings, and all traces of its former ecclesiastical dedication have disappeared. From the wording of this appropriation deed, Wheldale chapel seems to have been a donative in the 'presentation of the parson (Rector) of Fryston. In Domesday, Queldale and Friston (*i.e.* Water Fryston) were assessed together as owned by one Gamel, and having a taxable area of seven carucates, capable of maintaining five ploughs, and as returning in pre-Norman times £5. Under the Conquest, Water Fryston, as

Edward the Third

thus defined, which contained the church, the hall, and the park (all at one time under the same curtilage), had fallen to Gerbodo, a Fleming, who made therefrom a contribution to the foundation of St. Clement's Chapel in the castle. In his hands the taxable area had increased slightly, but Gerbodo held only three carucates in demesne, having sublet four and a half carucates to four villanes and one bordar (yeoman farmer), while the royal revenue had dwindled to 30s. A century later there was a church and a priest, twenty-four acres of meadow, but there was then no mill, and as no woody pasture is reported, the rest of the manor may be considered to have been unreclaimed field, to be afterwards let out in small allotments."—*From Richard Holmes' "Topography of Pontefract."*

In the Poll Tax of 1378, the name of Queldale is applied to the sparsely-peopled district lying between Castleford and Fryston, the more populous district being nearer Fryston. There were then but ten taxpayers in Queldale, nine paying four pence, and one Adam de Rotherfield paying twenty shillings. In 1364 (38 Edward III.) a John de Rotherfield, father of the above Adam de Rotherfield, according to an entry we came across in the "Yorkshire Archæological Journal," "held two knight's fees in Queldale and Sutton in the Countie of Yorke."

Henry, The sentence against Thomas, late Earl
Earl of of Lancaster was reversed by Edward
Lancaster the Third, and Henry, the brother of

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

the executed Earl, succeeded to the Pontefract estates.

Under Edward the Third the military affairs of the neighbourhood assumed some importance. In the first year of his reign, Edward issued a writ ordering John de Fenton and John de Oglethorpe to array the men of Barkston Wapentake for service against the Scots. Sherburn was the place of assemblage, and would at that time be a busy place enough, for here was organized a huge army of archers and men-at-arms, who were subsequently marched north to Scotland to assist Baliol, who was at that period in imminent danger of losing his much-disputed authority.

Henry, Earl of Lancaster, died about the year 1346, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who five years later was raised to the dignity of Duke of Lancaster, the first dukedom created in England.

Henry, This Duke of Lancaster died without **Duke of** male issue in 1367, leaving his vast **Lancaster** estates to his daughter Blanche, who was married to John of Gaunt (or Ghent, from having been born in that Flemish town). He was the fourth son of Edward the Third, and became ancestor of our Kings Henry IV., V. and VI. Memorials of this powerful duke, "Time-honoured Lancaster," still survive in this neighbourhood, thus we have John o' Gaunt Hill near Oulton, where, at the spot where now stands the John o' Gaunt Inn, tradition says he killed the last wild

Edward the Third

wolf in England. Some of the windows of the old Castleford Parish Church were bordered with his arms, and some writers have stated that he restored the church which had been founded by Henry de Lacy.

Edward the Third, by a charter dated 1357, granted to William Kay and William Bull, and their successors for ever, the annual sum of Ten Pounds, to perform divine service in the chapel on Wakefield Bridge, which revenue was secured out of the produce of Stanley, Pontefract, Purston and Water Fryston.

Another record of Castleford in this reign, is to the effect that in 1368 a "John Clark, of Pontefract, took to farm for six years the millne (mill) at Castleford, and pisearie (fishery) payeing Six Pounds." This man tried subsequently to get the rent reduced, but without success; then we find that a Thomas Wrangbroke gave Eight Pounds for the mill alone. Twelve years later the value of this mill had depreciated, as the record states that it was then let for 18s. & 7d., and in the next reign the value had so gone down that it yielded no rent at all.

At the Poll Tax of 1378, forty-two residents were assessed in the Castleford township, 34 of whom paid 4d; 7 paid 6d.; and 1 paid 12d. The seven at 6d. were,—2 Smiths, 1 Souter, 1 Walker, 2 Websters, and 1 Wright. A Spicer paid the 12d.

At the same Tax Houghton was assessed at

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17s. 10d., while Castleford produced only 15s. 10d., thus showing that Houghton was the superior township. The taxpayers of Houghton were 43 at 4d. and 7 at 6d. These last were 2 Smiths, 2 Tailors, 1 Webster, 1 Wright, and 1 undescribed.

Of the value of money at this period, some idea may be formed from a maximum fixed by the King's Writ for the prices of the following:—

No ox, stall or corn-fed to be

sold for more than - - - £1 4 0

No grass-fed ox for more than - 16 0

A fat-stalled cow not to exceed - 12 0

Any other fed cow not to exceed 10 0

A fat sheep, corn-fed, or with

wool grown - - - 1 8

A fat sheep, shorn - - - 1 2

A fat hog, two years old - - 3 4

A fat goose - - - 2½

A fat hen, or two chickens . 1

Twenty-four eggs - - - 1

The best land was rented at sixpence per acre, and a labourer's wages were about a penny a day.

CHAPTER IX

Death of Richard II. In 1399 Pontefract Castle was the scene of Richard the Second's imprisonment and death. This weak king having been compelled to abdicate, was hurried by his enemies from prison to prison, and eventually brought to Pontefract, the home of Henry Bolingbroke (afterwards Henry the Fourth) who had succeeded to the estates on the death of his father, John o' Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

The old account of the manner of the King's death by 18th century historians is that he was struck down by Sir Piers Exton and his associates, who had entered his prison armed with battle-axes, and as late as 1624 a stone pillar which was hacked with the blows of the murderers was pointed out. Contemporary historians give a totally different account of the event. Thomas de Walsingham, the monkish historian of Evesham, who continued the Chronicles of Croyland, relates that Richard voluntarily starved himself to death in his prison at Pontefract. Another version is that his starvation was not voluntary. The Percies accused Henry Bolingbroke of having caused Richard to perish from hunger. Archbishop Scrope repeats

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the same charge; but the late Mr. Richard Holmes, of Pontefract, who had closely investigated this subject, adheres to the story of his murder by Sir Piers Exton. From an old rhyming chronicler we take the following extract:—

“The King * then sent King Richard to Leedis †
There to be kept surely in previte
From thens after, to Pykering ‡ went he needis
And to Knaresburgh, after led was he
But to Pauntfrete last, where he did de.”

Henry IV. Henry Bolingbroke, the Lord of Pontefract Castle, now became King Henry the Fourth, and during his reign he frequently visited the Castle; he made it the “key of the North,” from which place he treated with the Scotch, and made it his base for subduing all northern rebels.

Insurrec- The reign of Henry the Fourth witnessed
tion in violent commotions in Yorkshire, in which
Yorkshire the inhabitants of this district must have partially engaged, and by which they must have been considerably agitated. After the rebellion of the Percies, and the defeat and death of Hotspur at the battle of Shrewsbury, the old Earl of Northumberland united with Scrope, the Archbishop of York, the Earl Marshal, and some other noblemen, in an insurrection against the government, with the ostensible object of redressing the grievances which

* Henry IV. † *i.e.*, Leeds Castle in Yorkshire.

‡ Pickering Castle in Yorkshire.

Insurrection in Yorkshire

had been involved in the proceedings of the usurper. An instrument, divided into ten articles, and charging the King with perjury, rebellion, extortion, irreligion, usurpation, and the murder of his sovereign, was fixed upon the doors of the churches; and such was the impression it produced, that many thousand men immediately took to arms. The plans of the insurgents, however, were as unsuccessfully carried out as they were wretchedly contrived; Archbishop Scrope and the Earl Marshal were taken and executed in 1405; this, we believe, is the first instance of an archbishop being tried and condemned to death by the civil power. Northumberland, three years afterwards, was defeated and slain on Bramham Moor by Sir Thomas Rokeby, the Sheriff of the county, and Sir Robert Waterton, of Methley. The whole insurrection, like every other unsuccessful rebellion, contributed to ensure the stability and strength of the government it was intended to destroy. Henceforward Henry the Fourth ruled as undisputed king, until his death in 1413, but notwithstanding the brilliant French victories of his son, Henry the Fifth, the seed had been sown which was to bear fruit shortly in the civil contest between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster.

Henry V. Records of the Castleford district during the following reign are very few; from a list of rents of the bailiwick of Pontefract, now deposited in the library at Campsall, dated 1424, we select

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the following entries:—

“Fiftie-five oxgangs in Medeley, with the work of the tenants, is., twentie oxgangs in Hoghton, fifteen oxgangs in Casterford, and thertie-five oxgangs in Ledston, with the mowinge, makinge and carrieinge the lord’s haye and corne, for the mess’ge and tenements of the mastre of the hospitall of Saint Nicholas, in Medeley, Casterford and Hoghton, with their enclosure in the park of Pontefract, released to them in alle xv l. xv s. ii d. The farm of xl s. for the fullinge milne atte Casterford, and a littel howse called Fullect, alle at the reparation of the tenant owte of the wode and brushwode of the lord. And the lord shall keep in repaire the mill-dam and baye and close at his proper costs. For the site of the capital house there vi s. and for the waste landes and for the mines of marle, vii s. saving to the farmer of the village of Pontefract, the easements for the fair held yearlie on the vigel of Saint Trinity; and for imparking the bestes gysted in the parke of Pontefract, and driven there at the feast of St. Michael, as well as the fallage (foliage) there, nothing. The fullinge mill in the 3rd year of the reign of Richard II. let for xvii s. vii d., but now nothing, for the defect of the same arose. For the farm of Nicholas Walker, for one Kallet at Swallow Green upon the banks of the river Eyre, over anent the mill iii d. For the farm of a garden called Appleyards xiii s. iii d. For the crops of ten acres of meddowe in north

Henry the Fifth

mill holmes lett to the tenants of Kyppax xvi s. viii d. For the farm in south milne felde xviii s. ii d., for every acre xx d., and no more, for the great increase of water. For the croppe of twelve acres xlvs., and for the croppe of three acres, buttinge upon the bankes of the river Eyre, for the provost (park-keeper) of Kyppax, and for the deere in the parke xvs. Of the prior of Saint John the Evangelist, for the croppe of one acre in Ledston Thorn vs., and for the croppe of six acres in Long-acres xxiii s. which used to be xxx s."

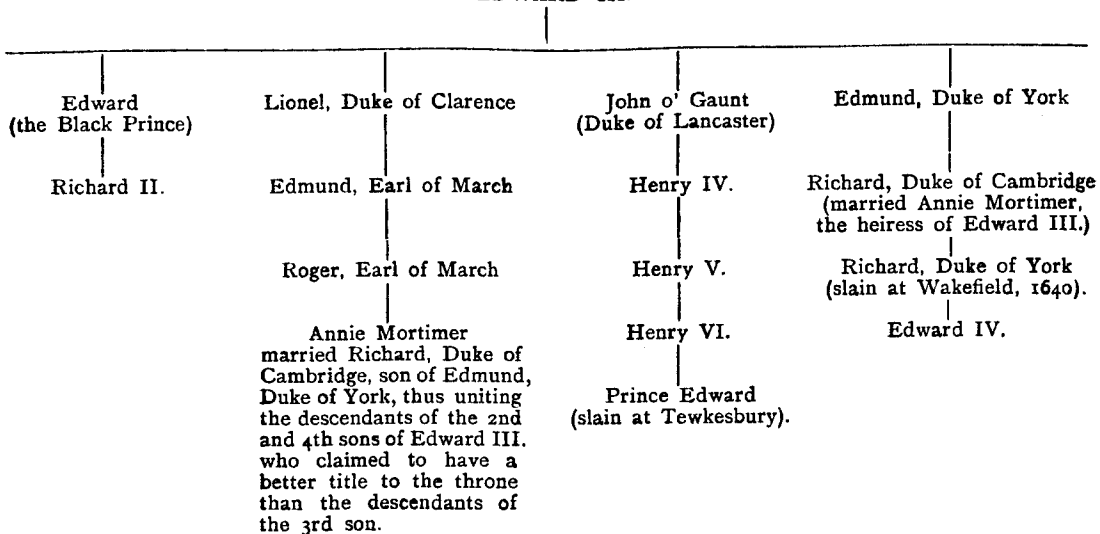
The above extract will serve to give us a glimpse of what Castleford was like four hundred and eighty years ago.

CHAPTER X

The Wars of the Roses We now approach the stormy period of the Wars of the Roses, when for thirty years England became the arena of a fierce civil war, and Englishmen met face to face in battle array, inflamed by mutual hatred. Once more the Castleford district comes into prominence, for Pontefract Castle being held by the Lancastrians, and the whole neighbourhood being strongly attached to that party, around this locality were fought some of the bloodiest battles in that memorable contest, which destroyed the bulk of the nobles of England, and brought to an end the feudal system which for centuries had dominated the land.

The weakness of Henry the Sixth, the arrogance of his queen, Margaret, and the dissensions and quarrels of the court, emboldened Richard, Duke of York, to assert his claims to the crown, and the nobles were thus divided into two hostile factions, the partisans of the Houses of Lancaster and York assuming the red and white rose as their respective badges. It is not an easy matter even now to say which party had the best claim to the throne, as a glance at the following geneological table will show :—

EDWARD III.



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From this table we see that Richard, Duke of York, claimed the crown as being descended from Annie Mortimer, the heiress of Lionel, Edward the Third's second son, and also from his father, the heir of Edmund, Edward the Third's fourth son.

By his father's side he was clearly out of the succession, as the descendants of John o' Gaunt had a prior claim, but by his mother's side he was a descendant of Lionel, who was an elder brother of John o' Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

It would be foreign to the purpose of this book, to speak in detail of the events of this interesting period, except as they concern the immediate district, which was the scene of two of the most memorable battles fought during this contest.

When the weak Lancastrian King, Henry the Sixth, after the battle of Northampton, in June, 1460, agreed to acknowledge Richard, Duke of York, and his heirs, as his successors, instead of his own son, his high-spirited queen, Margaret, fiercely repudiated the arrangement, and taking the young Prince of Wales with her, fled north to Pontefract, **Battle of** and rallied the Lancastrians to her stand. At Sandal Castle, the Duke of **Wakefield** York with a force of about 5,000 or 6,000 men was suddenly confronted by Queen Margaret and a much larger force, under Northumberland, Clifford, Dacre and other nobles of the north, and on the 30th of December, 1460, was fought the battle of Wakefield **Green**, in which the Yorkists

Battle of Wakefield Green

were defeated, and the Duke of York was slain together with 2,000 of his men. It was just after the battle that the "black-faced Clifford" in revenge for his father's death at St. Alban's, slew in cold blood Edmund, Duke of Rutland, the son of the slain Duke of York, a youth of only 17 years. The lad fell at the feet of Lord Clifford and begged for mercy; the rough soldier fiercely answered, "Thy father slew mine, and now will I slay thee, and all thy kin," and he stabbed him as he knelt.

By Queen Margaret's orders, the head of the Duke of York, adorned with a paper crown in derision of his pretensions, was carried on the point of a pike before the victorious army, and placed upon the gates of York.

"So York may overlook the town of York."—

Shakespeare's Henry the Sixth.

Thus, in those last hours of the eventful year 1460, perished Richard, Duke of York, in the 50th year of his age, a man who had always displayed great abilities, and shewn much self-control and moderation in this disastrous and violent quarrel. His death was a great loss to England, as the headship of his house and party now passed to his son, a selfish and hard-hearted, though very able young man, soon to become our Edward the Fourth.

The body of the fallen Duke was interred at Pontefract Priory, and was afterwards removed to

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Fotheringay by order of his son Edward the Fourth. When the removal took place, the remains were followed by his son Richard, Duke of Gloucester (afterwards Richard the Third), as chief mourner, in great state, whilst an immense number of bishops and mitred abbots joined the procession ; thus was Richard brought to his final resting place.

His young son soon avenged the defeat and death of Richard, for gathering together a force of over 50,000 adherents at Hereford, he marched northward into Yorkshire and seized the town of Pontefract.

Battle at Queen Margaret at York had around her
Brother- a vast army of Lancastrians, and at
ton once sent forward a detachment under Lord Clifford to oust the Yorkists from their camp at Pontefract. The Yorkists under the Earl of March crossed the river at Ferrybridge, but were driven back after a sharp skirmish in which Lord Fitzwalter was slain. Before Clifford was aware of it, Lord Fauconbridge had taken part of the Yorkist army along the south bank of the river, up through Queldale to the ford at Castleford, where he crossed to the north bank, and marching through Fairburn he attacked Clifford at Brotherton Marsh with such effect that the Lancastrians fell back towards York in a disorderly rout, during which Lord Clifford fell, and according to a tradition of his family, his body was "tumbled into a pit with a promiscuous heap of slain." In the neighbourhood of Brotherton, human skeletons,

Battle of Towton

ancient armour, and other relics of war have been frequently discovered.

Edward, having thus recovered possession of Ferrybridge, marched his vast army northwards in the direction of Tadcaster, in search of the main body of the Lancastrian army, now moving south-west from York.

Battle of Towton Between Towton and Saxton is a ridge of high ground, and behind runs the little river Cock, a tributary of the Wharfe. Here the two armies met on Palm Sunday, 1461, and a fierce struggle ensued. Each side had from 60,000 to 80,000 men, some chroniclers put the numbers as high as 100,000 each—but at any rate it is generally accepted by historians that Towton saw the largest hosts set against each other that ever met on an English battle-field.

This desperate contest was waged on the bleak hillside during a blinding snowstorm, and lasted from morn till dusk. The early part of the fighting was confined to showers of arrows, later they came to close quarters, and a fierce hand to hand fight went on, a mass of desperate men smiting each other with pike, sword and battle-axe.

Several times during that bleak March day did the fortunes of war hang in the balance; at one period, critical for the House of York, the King-maker, Warwick, is said to have sprung from his horse, and burying his sword to the hilt in his charger's side, swore to conquer or perish. The

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tide of battle turned in the Yorkists' favour, and the Lancastrians were driven back. The destruction of life on the field itself now became dreadful, for the combat was waged with ruthless ferocity; but it was in the retreat of the vanquished that the most hideous slaughter took place, some thousands were drowned or trampled to death at the passing of the Cock Beck, until there was a bridge of dying and dead bodies over which the pursued and the pursuers passed. There is a tradition among the natives of Tadcaster, that even the waters of the river Wharfe were tinged with the blood of the slain. As no quarter had been given at Wakefield Green, so here at Towton Edward expressly commanded that no quarter was to be asked or given, and only too well were his orders carried out, for at eventide some 38,000 of England's sons lay dead upon the battle-field. The Yorkists were everywhere triumphant; the Lancastrians with all their glorious traditions and the brilliant records of their House, were practically annihilated, and their king was a fugitive in his own dominions.

One can never pass that fatal spot without thinking of those blood-stained, snow-covered fields, as they appeared at the close of that eventful day, which terminated the history of so many ancient and noble families. The little hamlet of Towton bears, and will continue to bear, a conspicuous position in the history of England. There is probably no place in Yorkshire whose history embraces

Battle of Towton

sadder memories, for the natives of this part of the country were devoted to the Lancastrian party. An old ballad of the period tells us "How Yorkshire mourned o'er Towton's crimsoned field," for here was the grave of the old feudal nobility. Here fell all the chiefs of the Lancastrian party in the north, including the Earl of Northumberland, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Westmoreland, Ralph Neville, brother of the King-maker, from that princely castle of Middleham in Wensleydale, whose body was laid in Saxton Church, but has there no distinguishable memorial; Lionel, Baron Welles, whose body was interred in Methley Church, for he was connected by marriage with the Watertons, the ancient lords of Methley. In the Waterton chantry of this church is a fine monument to Lord Welles and his wife Cicely Waterton. A tradition still survives in Methley that the body of Lord Welles was brought from the battle-field to Methley in a sack. If the effigy at Methley is a faithful representation of Lord Welles' features, we can well believe he was a bold and stalwart knight.

The most conspicuous object in Saxton churchyard is the tomb of Lord Dacre, on which may still be read the following inscription:—

"Hic jacet Ranulphus de Dacre et Greystoke, verus miles qui obiit in bello pro rege suo Henrico Sexto, Anno MCCCCLXI, vicesimo nono die mensis Marcii vid' et Dominica Palmarum cujus animæ propicietur Deus, Amen."

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

There fell also at Towton the Lords Willoughby, Grey and Molineux, Viscount Beaumont, Sirs Ralph Bigot, Richard Jeney and Andrew Trollop, besides a prodigious number of knights and gentlemen.

Gower, writing in 1585, that is 124 years after the battle, heard this tradition, that "Lord Dacre was slayne by a boy, just after the battle, which boy shot him out of a burtree, when he had unclasped his helmet to drink a cup of wyne, in revenge of his father, whome the said Lord had slayne before, which tree hath beene remarkable ever since by the inhabitants, and decayed within this few years. The place where he was slayne is called the North Acres, whereupon they have this ryme—

' The Lord of Dacres,
Was slayne in the North Acres.' "

In another part of Saxton churchyard many of the distinguished officers were buried by hundreds; even to this day you cannot put in a spade beyond the depth of two feet without disturbing their bones; a native told us when we were there that he had assisted the sexton in digging a grave many years ago, and they cut through a layer of bones nearly three feet thick. Near to the neighbouring farmyard are still visible the mounds and depressions which in all probability mark the places where the untitled dead of both parties were buried. Whitaker writing in 1780 says "Thirty years before my visit a gold ring weighing over one ounce was found on

Battle of Towton

the battle-field, with this inscription, "Kowe us thus," the motto on the Percy crest, and there can be little doubt that it was the ring actually worn by the Duke of Northumberland. Remains of armour, weapons, bones, &c., have been turned up here by farmers."

Another old historian states that "there is a chapel or hermitage upon Towton Field in token of praier and memorie of men slayne there." If the writer refers to Lede Church he is in error, for Lede or Lead Church is not *on* the battle-field, and was in existence long before Towton battle. This ancient and diminutive chapel stands in what was formerly a park, and the adjoining ruined farmhouse was formerly Lede Hall, the seat of the De Tyas family, five of whose tombstones may still be seen inside the chapel, bearing the arms of the De Tyases, viz: a fess and three mallets in chief.

A chapel was commenced on a part of the battle-field "most distant from Saxton by Richard the Third, but his early death at Bosworth Field brought the scheme to an end, at least for a time." The Harleian M.S. gives a warrant for "£40 to be yeaven for the building of the Chapelle at Towtone, yeaven 28th November 1483." Richard the Third died in 1485.

Stowe tells us "that Towton village is a mile from Saxton, where a great chapelle was begun by Richard the Third, but not finished, in which chapelle were buried also many of the men slaine

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at Palme Sunday Fielde."

In 1488 we find the Archbishop's grant of an "Indulgentia 40 dierum for two yeares, ad speciosam cappellam in villa de Toughton par Saxton." Neither the fabric nor the endowment appears to have progressed in a very satisfactory manner, for in 1502 the archbishop grants another indulgence for 40 days, "pro capella de Toughton in ye parish of Saxton before founded, in which chapelle and ground about it very many bodies of men slain in ye time of war lie buried; now for asmuch as ye said chapelle is not sufficiently endowed with possessions and rents as to sustain it and have divine service celebrated therein, without the charitable alms of Christian people elsewhere; whereupon Thomas, Archbishop of York, hereby granted his license and authority to Dom Robert Burdet to celebrate divine service in ye said chapelle; and the inhabitants of the town of Toughton were to found a gilde or fraternity in the said chapelle in honour of St. Mary ye Virgin and St. Thomas ye Martyr." King Richard's Chapel has been located in the garden behind the house at Towton, occupied by Mr. Kendall.

As we walked across the battle-field in 1902 we met an old farmer who had spent his whole life on that farm, and possesses several relics of the battle turned up during his farming operations, as well as a splendid collection of traditions connected with the place. On expressing some surprise that no

Battle of Towton

memorial marked the site of the battle, such as we have seen at Wakefield, Barnet, and other places, he pointed out to us a massive and interesting stone pillar, now lying almost hidden in the bottom of a fence near the highway from Saxton to Towton, in a field called "The Graves." The stone is some few feet above ground in a leaning position; near the top, on two sides, are large and deeply carved crosses. We dug down some two or three feet without reaching the base of the column, and we made diligent search for some inscription, but the stone was so much decayed that we could detect no indication of any written record. Undoubtedly it has some connection with the Towton battle, perhaps was erected over the spot where some leader fell; or it may possibly be some relic of the chapel that Richard the Third is said to have commenced here, not a vestige of which remains unless it be this old carved pillar. The farmer who accompanied us called it "Lord Dacre's stone," and said there was a tradition that Lord Dacre fell here. We think that to allow this interesting relic to lie in its present ignoble position shows a lack of appreciation of historic events. Perhaps some public-spirited gentleman may at no distant date have the stone unearthed, and erected in a prominent position, to mark the site of this memorable and epoch-making event, which placed the House of York upon the throne of England.

Entry in Sherburn Parish Register.—"1787 at

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this month of March the skull of Lord Dacres was dug up in Saxton Churchyard by me John Rogers, Vicar of Sherburn."

The grave was again opened in 1861, and the skull of the horse buried with Lord Dacre was found 6 feet below the surface.

After this long digression, let us return to the events which succeeded the rout of the Lancastrians. When the news of the Yorkist victory reached the city of York, Henry and Margaret fled northwards; the King was soon captured and lodged in the Tower of London, where in 1471 he was murdered, as described with such dramatic force in that last scene of Shakespeare's "Henry the Sixth." Margaret and her young son Edward, it is said, fell into the hands of a robber, who, taking pity upon them, aided their escape to Scotland.

Edward, riding from his great victory at Towton to York, saw the head of his father on Micklegate Bar, and ordering it to be reverently removed, fixed in its place the heads of the Earls of Devon and Kyme. He took a cruel revenge a few years later, when Margaret and her son came within his reach, after the battle of Tewkesbury. In the queen's presence, Edward struck her son in the face with his iron gauntlet, after which his two brothers, George, Duke of Clarence, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester, stabbed the captured prince with their daggers.

CHAPTER XI

Edward IV. The early years of Edward the Fourth's reign were years of unrest. The new king estranged Warwick by his marriage with Lady Elizabeth Grey, and his brother Clarence joined with the King-maker in stirring up a dangerous insurrection in 1470, which resulted in Edward being confined in the castle of the Nevilles. Thus the great Warwick had at one time two kings of England in prison, Edward the Fourth at Middleham Castle, in Wensleydale, and Henry the Sixth in the Tower of London.

Edward managed to escape, and gathering together his adherents, defeated Warwick at Stamford, upon which Warwick and Clarence fled to France, and became reconciled to Queen Margaret. Landing at Dartmouth, the powerful Warwick reproclaimed Henry the Sixth, upon which Edward fled to Holland, but soon returned, landing at Ravenspur, on the Yorkshire coast. With his adherents he marched towards York, passed his forces across the river at Castleford, and went southwards towards London. At Barnet he encountered Warwick and his army, whom he defeated; amongst the slain was the King-maker.

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Thus fell at the battle of Barnet "the last of the Barons," and Edward the Fourth was thenceforward firmly seated upon the throne.

A few years later, viz. in 1478, Edward made a "progress" to the north, accompanied by a numerous retinue. He was met at Wentbridge by the public officers and gentry of these parts, who escorted him to Pontefract Castle, where he remained a week, and then set forward to York. Five years later he died, and was succeeded by his young son, Edward the Fifth. His uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, established himself as Protector of the Realm, but only as a preliminary to seizing the crown. His aims were strongly opposed by some of the nobles, especially Earl Rivers, Sir Richard Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan. These he caused to be removed to Pontefract Castle, and here they were executed by Gloucester's orders, without any charge being laid against them, and their bodies were buried in the adjoining Priory Church.

"O Pomfret, Pomfret, O, thou bloody prison,
Fatal and ominous to noble peers"

are the words which Shakespeare puts into the mouth of Earl Rivers, as he was being led forth to his execution.

The murder of the young princes in the Tower followed, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester, became King Richard the Third, but after two years, he was slain at Bosworth Field, and Henry Richmond, the heir of the Lancastrians, became King, as

The Tudor Period

Henry the Seventh. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward the Fourth, and sister of the murdered princes. Thus after thirty years of civil commotion, the houses of York and Lancaster were finally united, and a new period of English history opens out.

[The following entry gives us another glimpse of Castleford at this period. By will dated 8th October, 1483, a Richard Raw of Fryston Hall, also an Alderman of London, left "ten marks to purchase some ornament for the church of Sherburn, and £26 13s. 4d. to poor maidens, poor householders and poor people at Pountfreit, Friston and Castelforth."]

The Tudor Period A few years later (1487) Henry the Seventh visited Pontefract Castle, the ancient patrimony of his family. The Earl of Northumberland, with the gentry of this locality who had always supported the Lancastrians, met the King between Pontefract and Doncaster, "a littell beyonde Robyn Haddes Well."

Castleford is again mentioned in 1515, Henry the Eighth's time, in the following Escheat:—"Henry Vavasor of Hesilwood held 100 acres of pasture with the appurtnances in Wentbrig, Houghton and Castelford in the Countie of York for John Vavasor his son and heir 21 years old."

The historian Leland, who visited this locality in 1522, wrote as follows:—"Under Castelleford Bridge of seven arches" (and this is the first reference we have found to a bridge at Castleford) "runneth

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Ayre ryver, and a three miles above this west up is Swillington Bridge on the same ryver, and two miles beneath Castelleford is Ferry Bridge." Previous references to this place spoke of Ferry Field, so that it appears the erection of a bridge was the cause of the change of name. Leland further states "from Castelleford to Whitwood village a mile. At Castelleford I saw in an enclosed pasture ground diches and hilles of ye olde castlle. It is now called Castelle Hille and belongith to one Archibald Giseland."

Wolsey Eight years later, in 1530, when Cardinal
at Wolsey was disgraced by Henry the
Cawood Eighth, he retired to Cawood Castle, near Sherburn, a residence of his as Archbishop of York. It is related of him that when he entered Yorkshire he stopped at various places to confirm the children from the surrounding parishes. Over 500 of such applicants for the benefit of the holy rite met him, near Ferrybridge, where round a great stone cross about a quarter of a mile from the town, he confirmed them all before he would leave the place, so that he did not arrive at Cawood Castle until a late hour. Such is the record; we have tried to locate the spot at the old Stump Cross, now forming a township boundary stone, the base of which stands near the Nevison Inn, on the road between Pontefract and Ferrybridge, but have been unable to find any local records to confirm this view. Soon afterwards the Cardinal was suddenly arrested at Cawood Castle

Wolsey at Cawood

by the Earl of Northumberland, on a charge of high treason, and again passed through Ferrybridge on his melancholy journey towards London. Broken in spirit and weakened by sickness, he sought refuge in the Abbey of Leicester, uttering the mournful words, "Father Abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you," and there he died on the 29th of November, 1530.

CHAPTER XII

**Dissolu-
tion
of the
Monas-
teries** Five years later commenced the dissolution of the Monasteries, among them being Kirkstall Abbey, assessed at a yearly revenue of £329 2s. 11d.; St. John Priory, Pontefract, at £337 4s. 8d.; Nostel Priory at £492 18s. 2d.; and Selby Abbey at £729 12s. 6d.

In order to make some amends for the devastation caused by the suppression of the religious houses, the "Court of the North" was established, with its headquarters at York, to determine all cases on the north side of the Trent. There were seven councillors and a lord president. There were also special officers for exceptional duties, such as helping the poor who hitherto had been relieved by the monks. In the records of the times we find such entries as the following:—"Receaver for the honor of Pontefract, his fee, £36 13s. 4d." Ledstone Hall, subsequently enlarged and otherwise improved by Sir Thomas Wentworth, was his place of residence during the period when he held the office of President of the Council of the North. This office ceased to be during the Civil wars of Charles the First.

Sir Martin Frobisher

In 1541 Henry the Eighth visited Pontefract Castle, being met on the Barnsdale road by the Archbishop of York and three hundred of his clergy, who, on their knees presented the King with £600, a very large sum of money in those days.

Robert Holgate, the Archbishop, founded a hospital "for ten men and ten women" at his native village of Hemsworth, to which place the sturdy old protestant retired when subsequently deprived of his See by Queen Mary. He narrowly escaped martyrdom.

In 1540 was born at Temple Newsum, near Garforth, Lord Darnley, who became the second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, and whose tragic death in 1567 was the precursor of so much evil for the Scottish queen.

Sir About the same date Sir Martin Frobisher,
Martin the famous Elizabethan navigator, is said
Frobisher to have been born at Altofts, though some accounts of this brave seaman represent him as having been born at Doncaster. A Francis Furbisher was Recorder of Doncaster about the middle of the 16th century, and was buried there in 1563; the names of others of the family appear in the early registers of that town, and hence it has been concluded that Sir Martin was a native. Hunter, in his "South Yorkshire," after discussing this question adds, "there seems to be no reason for depriving the little village of Altofts of the honour of having produced this truly eminent man." This judgment is confirmed by some geneological

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memoranda attached to Frobisher's will. From this it appears that the earliest of the race whose name has been preserved was a John Frobisher, Esquire, of Flintshire, in North Wales.

In the sixth generation from him, we come to a John Frobisher, Esquire, of Altofts, who married Joan, daughter of Sir William Scargill, of Stapleton. Their descendants, including Francis, the Recorder of Doncaster, are all described in this document as "of Altofts." The assumption that Sir Martin was a native of Altofts is rendered probable from the fact that several generations of the family, as we have seen, were settled there; and from the baptism of a Margaret Frobisher, believed to have been his sister, being registered in the Parish Church of Normanton, 10th February, 1541 (a Bernard Frobysser, who is believed to have been Sir Martin's father, was buried here in 1542); and also from the record "that he was seized in free farm of the lordship of Altofts, where he builded a house near the park"; and lastly, he directed by his will that his funeral should take place there.

To enter into any long account of one whose name and achievements are so familiar would be superfluous; suffice it to say that he was the first Englishman who attempted to solve the problem of finding a north-west passage to China and India. On the invasion of the Spanish Armada he had command of one of the largest vessels, and for his conduct on that occasion he was knighted on the 26th July, 1588. He died at Plymouth from the

Sir Martin Frobisher

effects of a carelessly dressed wound received in an attack upon Brest in 1594. His estates included the manors of Warmfield-cum-Heath and Whitwood, and were left to his nephew, Captain Peter Frobisher, who squandered them away, and died "very necessitous and obscurely" in London. Lady Frobisher married Sir John Savile. Sir Martin's will was made at sea, and is dated 4th August, 1594. In it he directs that his "body shall be buried where God pleases, but my will and myndd is, that the solemnizacon of my funeralls shall be kept at the parish church of Normanton and at my house called Frobisher Hall, in Altofts, in the Countie of York."

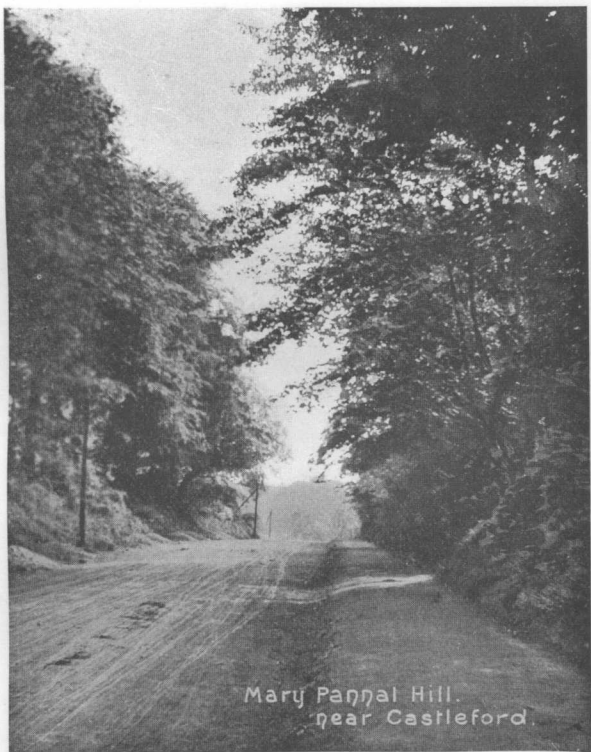
He died at Plymouth, as above stated, on the 22nd of November, 1594, and the place "where it pleased God his body should be buried" was St. Giles', Cripplegate, London. It is of some local interest to know that there are still living in this district, persons of this name, who claim to be the descendants of that famous family.

CHAPTER XIII

Queen Elizabeth During the memorable reign of Queen Elizabeth we have few records of Castleford. There is an entry in the Pontefract Park Survey regarding Glass Houghton, dated 19th June, 1588, which runs as follows:—"That the farmers of the capital messuage of Houghton, called Houghton Hall, had time out of man's mind, and also since thence the first year of Her Majesty's reign, in the said park common for sixteen beasts and four horses, from the feast of St. Ellen unto Michaelmas, yearly, and also hath one key of custom delivered unto him by the keeper of the said Park, at the said feast of St. Ellen, unto Michaelmas yearly of one gate called Houghton Carr Gate, for the driving out of their cattle, paying yearly unto the said keeper, at the delivery of the said key, fourpence, and in pannage* time, swine without number." The Houghton Hall referred to is generally understood to have been the Manor House Farm.

Ancient Notices The following is taken from the Assessment of the year 1584, now in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace of the West

* Pannage was the privilege of feeding swine in a wood.



Mary Pannal Hill.
near Castleford.

Ancient Notices

Riding, and is entitled, "The Sessement for ye surveyour 1584. West Riding, Co., Ebor."

Altofts iiij s	Swillingtone xvi s
Medley ix s	Meklefeld v s
Normanton iij s	ffryston v s
Ledyston vi s viii d	ledshame ij s
Kepaxe x s	ffareburne vi s viij d
Barwyke x s	Hillome vj s viij d
Abberfurth iij s	p.s. Arch. in Brotherton xij d
Garfurth vi s vii d	lib'tas de Brotherton ij s
Castlefurth iiij s	Whytwodd iij s iiij d
South mylefurth vij s	Aykton iij s
Byrkyn vi s viij d	Knottynghley viij s
Pomfrette xij s iiij d	ffryston by the water iiij d
ffetherston iiij s	Queldale ij s

Mary Pannal During these Tudor times, this district appears from the records at York, to have been infested with supposed witches. The best remembered of these is Mary Pennell, or Pannal, of Ledstone, who lived in a rude hut of her own construction, and rendered herself infamous by her artifices and extortions, and thus obtained notoriety in this part of the country for her supposed intercourse with malignant spirits. William Witham, Esq., of Ledstone Hall, which he purchased about 1570, and who died there in 1593, was popularly supposed to have been bewitched to death by this Mary Pannal. For this

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and many other supposed sorceries she was arraigned and convicted at York in 1603, and put to death by burning in the cruel manner of those times, on a hill near Castleford, which to this day bears the name of Mary Pannal Hill. This place was long regarded with fear by the ignorant rustics of the neighbourhood.

It is no uncommon thing around this neighbourhood, to see the ash tree growing close to the old farmhouses, and old horse-shoes nailed to the doors for the purpose of keeping the witches away, or breaking their evil spells. In 1622 no less than six persons were executed at York for witchcraft, and a rogue of the name of Matthew Hopkins, hailing from this district, acquired some reputation as a professional witchfinder, and gained an easy livelihood by undertaking for an annual fee to protect any family from the spells of the witches, or to frustrate their evil designs by his counter-spells.

In 1603 James the First, dubbed "the wisest fool in Christendom," on his progress from Scotland, and again in 1617, honoured Pontefract Castle by his residence for a short period; and his son, the unfortunate Charles the First, also paid a royal visit to Pontefract in 1625.

An Inquisition, dated 6th September, 1632, alienated the tithes of Houghton from the Castleford Parish, for the endowment of the prebend Theobold de Luce, in the Chapel of "St. Clement's in the castle." These appear to have been restored to Castleford Parish at a subsequent date.

Thomas Wentworth

Thomas Wentworth A few years later Ledstone Hall was purchased from the Withams, by that much maligned but able statesman, Sir Thomas Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford, who resided here when he held the office of President of the Council of the North in the reign of Charles the First. After his return from his administration in Ireland he retired to this place, until the Long Parliament demanded his attendance at Westminster Hall, to answer a charge of high treason. Strafford at first declined to obey the summons, but went eventually on the assurance of King Charles that "not a hair of his head should be injured." When the "Impeachment" failed to effect his ruin, the Parliament brought in an "Act of Attainder," and condemned the proud and haughty Earl to death. The King had constitutional power to save his life and mitigate the punishment inflicted on him, yet in order to appease the Parliament, and to cover his own unconstitutional acts during eleven years of despotic government, he reluctantly signed the death-warrant of his faithful minister, upon which Strafford is said to have uttered that pathetic comment "Put not your trust in princes," and to the eternal disgrace of that sovereign, the brave Royalist was decapitated on Tower Hill. His tomb may be seen at Wentworth village church, near Rotherham, with the inscription :—

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

"This is the grave of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, Viscount Wentworth, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord President of the North of England. His birth was upon Good Friday, 13th April, 1593; his death upon 12th May, 1641. His soul, through the mercy of God lives in eternal bliss, and his memory will never die in these kingdoms."

He failed to subdue England to Charles' plan of government, and we are glad he failed, but we may charitably say of him, as Johnson said of poor Goldsmith, "Let not his failings be remembered, he was a very great man." It is of some local interest to know that at one time this statesman resided in this neighbourhood.

CHAPTER XIV

The Civil War The next time that the district comes into historic view, is in connection with the great Civil War between Charles the First and his Parliament, when we find Pontefract Castle held for the King; among the defenders were many local men, including Sir Richard Lowther, of Swillington; Sir Thomas Bland, of Kippax Park; Sir John Ramsden, of Byram Park; Richard Bilcliffe, Esq., of Glass Houghton; and John Haigue, of Barwick-in-Elmete.

First Siege of Pontefract Castle In June 1644 was fought the decisive battle of Marston Moor, between Wetherby and York, where Cromwell vanquished the Royalists under Prince Rupert, and took possession of York. Troops were at once dispatched to besiege and take all the places in the district garrisoned for the King, and amongst the rest Pontefract Castle was at once invested by the Paliamentarians under Colonel Sands.

The strength of the castle and the courage of its defenders defied the efforts of the Parliamentary forces. Meantime Sir Thomas Fairfax having subdued Helmsley and Knaresborough Castles, marched south, and joined his forces to the besiegers.

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There is a tradition that Fairfax had his quarters at Carleton. The house said to have been occupied by him, and where he and the other Parliamentary generals laid their plans and held their councils, is still pointed out, and known as Fairfax Cottage.

The besiegers sent a letter offering terms to the garrison. Richard Lowther, the governor, replied to the effect that he would defend the castle to the utmost of his power for King Charles, upon which Fairfax commenced to cannonade the place from Baghill, and blew down the Pix Tower, by which means a breach was made, but still the garrison refused to surrender. Fairfax did not attempt to storm the breach, judging it more prudent to continue the blockade, rather than to sacrifice his men in such a desperate enterprise. Fairfax appears to have departed, leaving Major-General Lambert in charge.

The besiegers began to mine, and the garrison to countermine. When the latter were at length in great straits for provisions and ammunition, they sent to Prince Rupert at Oxford for help. The King at once dispatched Sir Marmaduke Langdale with 2,000 men, and the watch on the Round Tower at length perceived the relief column marching over the top of Went Hill, on the Doncaster road. At Carleton this column was intercepted by the Roundheads under Major-General Lambert, and an action was fought which resulted in Lambert's forces having to retreat towards Ferrybridge after losing 160 men. The pursuit was continued

Second Siege of Pontefract Castle

to Sherburn, where Lambert lost 140 more killed, including many of his officers; he also lost 2,000 stand of arms and one cannon.

Returning from the pursuit, Langdale re-provisioned the castle and strengthened the garrison. He placed a body of cavalry at Featherstone, and another at Glass Houghton, under his relative, Langdale Sunderland, Esq., of Aketon Hall. Fairfax suddenly re-appeared on the scene, and crossing the river at Castleford under cover of night, he fell upon Sunderland's troops at Glass Houghton, defeating them, and taking many prisoners and horses.

Second Siege of Pontefract Castle Sir Marmaduke Langdale retreated southward, and the siege entered upon its second stage. Taking possession of Monkhill and Baghill, the besiegers dug trenches and erected strong earthworks. Frequent sallies were made by the garrison, and some desperate skirmishes took place, but still the castle held out for the King.

The besiegers were strengthened by a body of troops under Sir John Savile, of Methley, thus the losses sustained by them were constantly made good, whilst the garrison was gradually diminished by deaths and casualties, but they were buoyed up with the expectation that the efforts of the Royalists to relieve them would again be successful. By a stratagem which equals some of the feats of Christian De Wet in the late Boer War, a considerable number of cattle were driven into the castle, and the hopes of the garrison revived.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

General Poyntz now took command of the Parliamentary forces, and a letter was sent to Governor Lowther, informing him of the decisive battle of Naseby, and urging him to surrender the castle while there was hope of mercy. Lowther bluntly refused, and so the siege continued, the cannonade becoming more and more galling, and the fighting strength of the garrison becoming daily reduced in numbers.

Lord Digby and Sir Marmaduke Langdale with their forces attempted to assist the garrison; they fell upon some of the besiegers at Ferrybridge, taking some prisoners, but General Poyntz and Colonel Copley in turn fell upon the relief column and defeated them at Sherburn on the 15th October, 1645.

The following is an extract from General Poyntz's letter to the Honourable William Lenthall, Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons:—

"Sir,—Our news is very joyful, even the defeat of near two thousand men under the command of the Lord Digby, having taken near one thousand foot of mine near Ferry Briggs, my horse, under the command of Colonel Copley fell suddenly upon them, and not only released the foot, but God gave us an absolute victory * * * * * You shall hear further from me by the next that offers so much happiness to your friend to serve you

SYDENHAM POYNTZ."

Here is a copy of Colonel Copley's letter to the Honourable Commissioners for War:—

"Honoured Gentlemen,—The enemy last night beat up our guard: to Ferrybridge this day 15 Oct. 1645—took all

Second Siege of Pontefract Castle

our foot at Sherburne; we pursued, charged them at the Town's end, routed them, but not without the rout of some of our men. And so the Lord hath given us the victory, many prisoners are taken, we are yet in the pursuit, we have redeemed all our foot, this is all for the present from your most humble servant

CHRISTOPHER COPLEY."

This skirmish at Sherburn destroyed all the hopes of the garrison. The siege had now lasted five months, and Lowther, considering the impossibility of holding the fortress much longer against such overwhelming odds, sent Sir Thomas Bland, Sir John Ramsden, and Sir Richard Hutton, under a flag of truce, to ascertain conditions of surrender. During the negotiations, which lasted some days, the soldiers of the garrison entered into social intercourse and friendly games with the besiegers.

The treaty of surrender was duly signed; the garrison evacuated the castle, and the Roundheads took possession. Thus terminated the second siege of Pontefract Castle.

The local gentry who had assisted in the defence now obtained permission to return to their homes, but they continued to be closely watched by the Parliament, and were heavily fined for their adherence to the Royalist cause. Amongst many others we find:—

Sir Thomas Beaumont, of Whitley Hall, fined	£700
Sir Thomas Bland, of Kippax Park	„ 405
John Beverley, Esq., of Smeaton	„ 200
Matthew Jackson, Esq., of Empsall	„ 45

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William Lowther, Esq., of Swillington, fined	200
William Thompson, Esq., of Brotherton Hall	109
Alderman John Tatham, of Pontefract, fined	114
Alderman William Tatham	75
Richard Oates, of Pontefract	22
William Stables	12

For nearly two years the Parliamentary forces held the castle. The King, from his retreat at Carisbroke Castle, stirred up a second Civil War in 1648, appointing Lord Digby Lieutenant General of the North, with Sir Marmaduke Langdale under him.

They gathered together a force and encamped near Sherburn. Thus encouraged, the Royalist gentry of the district once more secretly took up arms for the King. On the 3rd of June, 1648, the Governor of Pontefract Castle, having given orders for some beds and provisions out of the country, Colonel Morris, of South Emsall, a young man of 29 years, who had formerly been in the employ of Strafford in Ireland, commissioned by General Langdale, and accompanied by nine Royalist officers disguised as peasants, having pistols concealed beneath their clothes, appeared at the castle gate, with carts laden with beds and provisions. The drawbridge was let down, and the goods delivered to the main guard; money was then given to the soldiers to fetch some ale; while they were absent Morris and his party attacked and mastered the main guard, making way for their confederates to enter. They then made the Deputy-Governor

Third Siege of Pontefract Castle

prisoner, and soon made themselves masters of the castle, after which they were joined by 30 horse and 500 foot, part of the King's shattered troops, and Sir John Digby was made Governor, then for the third time the Parliamentary army laid siege to the fortress.

Third Siege of Pontefract Castle Cromwell having by this time subdued Scotland, marched his forces to New-Pontefract castle, from which place he hastily despatched some of his troops to assist the besiegers at Pontefract. Meanwhile a party of Royalists (among them is said to have been Sir John Bland, of Kippax Park) sallied from the castle, rode into Doncaster in disguise, and there getting into ex-Governor Rainsborough's lodgings, stabbed him to death. A fortnight later Cromwell himself arrived upon the scene, and took up his quarters at Knottingley, despatching to Colonel Morris the following letter :—

"Sir,—Being come hither for the reduction of this place, I thought fit to summon you to deliver your garrison to me for the use of the Parliament. Those gentlemen and soldiers with you may have better terms than if you hold it to extremity. I expect your answer this day, and rest,

Your servant,

OLIVER CROMWELL."

Cromwell got an answer from Morris—it was a flat refusal. For a month he remained before the castle, without making any impression on it. In Carlyle's "Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell" are at least five long letters from that General,

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

dated from Knottingley, dealing with the incidents of the siege, and the weightier matters relating to the affairs of the Parliament in regard to the disposal of the King.

We venture to insert one of these letters, because incidentally it gives us a glimpse of the condition of the district at this period.

"For the Right Honourable the Committee of Lords and Commons sitting at Derby House: These present.

Knottingley, near Pontefract,
15 Nov. 1648.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

So soon as I came into these parts, I met with an earnest desire from the Committee of this County to take upon me the charge here, for the reducing of the Garrison at Pontefract. * * * * . I have had sight of a Letter to the House of Commons; wherein things are so represented, as if the Siege were at such a pass that the prize were already gained. In consideration whereof, I thought fit to let you know what the true state of this Garrison is; as also the condition of the country, that so you may not think demands for such things as would be necessary unreasonable. My Lords, the Castle hath been victualled with Two-hundred and twenty or forty fat cattle, within these three weeks; and they have gotten in, as I am credibly informed, salt enough for them and more. So that I apprehend they are victualled for a twelvemonth. The men within are resolved to endure to the utmost extremity; expecting no mercy, as indeed they deserve none. The place is very well known to be one of the strongest inland Garrisons in the Kingdom; well watered; situated upon a rock in every part of it, and therefore difficult to mine. The walls very thick and high, with strong towers; and if battered, very difficult of access, by reason of the depth and steepness of the graft. The country is exceedingly

Third Siege of Pontefract Castle

impoverished; not able to bear free-quarter; nor well able to furnish provisions, if we had moneys. The work is like to be long, if materials be not furnished answerable. I therefore think it my duty to represent unto you as followeth: viz— That moneys be provided for Three complete regiments of Foot, and Two of Horse;—that money be provided for all contingencies which are in view, too many to enumerate. That Five-hundred Barrels of powder, Six good Battering-guns, with Three-hundred shot to each gun, be speedily sent down to Hull:—we desire none may be sent less than demi-cannons. We also desire some match and bullet. And if it may be, we should be glad that two or three of the biggest Mortar-pieces with shells may likewise be sent, * * * * * I have not as yet drawn any of our Foot to this place; * * * * * these parts being not well able to bear them, — * * * * * and indeed I would not satisfy myself nor my duty to you and them, To put the poor men, at this season of the year, to lie in the fields, before we be furnished with shoes, stockings and clothes, for them to cover their nakedness,—which we hear are in preparation, and would (should) be speeded:—and until we have deal-boards to make them courts-of-guard, and tools to cast-up works to secure them. These things I have humbly represented to you; and waiting for your resolution and command, I rest, your most humble servant,

OLIVER CROMWELL."

A few weeks later affairs in London had reached such a crisis that Cromwell's presence was urgently required, so he took his departure from this neighbourhood, and left Lambert to carry on the siege.

When the news of the execution of the King reached Pontefract Castle, the garrison at once proclaimed his son as Charles the Second.

The Governor of the castle coined some shillings

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

of an octagonal shape, the first coinage struck for Charles the Second. There are inscribed on the obverse, "POST: MORTEM: PATRIS: PRO: FILIO"; and on the reverse "CAROL: II.: O: G.: MAG.: B: F: ET: H: REX."

Notwithstanding the loyalty and bravery of the garrison, Lambert kept such a close grip upon the fortress that the besieged had little hope of final success. The garrison, which at first numbered some six hundred men, was reduced by the casualties of war to one hundred, many of whom were unfit for duty on account of wounds and starvation.

Lambert was asked at length what terms he would grant if they surrendered; the reply was that all except six should return to their homes. The articles of capitulation were agreed to conditionally, but when the names of the six excepted persons were revealed to the garrison, they refused to surrender unless Lambert would allow them six more days (during which time they thought the unfortunate six might effect their escape). To this proposal Lambert consented, "provided the rest would surrender at the expiration of that time, and engage never again to advise or take up arms against the Parliament."

The six excepted persons were:—

Colonel Morris, the Governor; Captain Allen Austwick, one of the murderers of Rainsborough; Captain or Cornet Blackborne, also one of the murderers of Rainsborough; Major Ashby; Ensign Smyth; Sergeant Floyd. The three last-named

Third Siege of Pontefract Castle

had acted as traitors when the castle was surprised and taken by the Royalists.

On the second day the garrison made a vigorous sally, during which Morris and Blackborne charged through and effected their escape.

On the fifth day another sally was made without success, in which Ensign Smyth was killed. His body was recovered and buried in St. Clement's Chapel. The garrison concealed Austwick, Ashby, and Floyd in a private sally port with provisions for a month, and implements with which to break through the outer walls of their prison, and on the sixth day the garrison marched out, informing Lambert that the six men had effected their escape from the castle. It is interesting to know that the three doomed men made their escape during the following night, fled to the continent, and all three returned at the time of the Restoration. Morris and Blackborne were not so fortunate; they were captured near Fleetwood, in Lancashire, as they were about to enter a ship bound for France, and were brought to York, tried, condemned, and executed in that city. On the tombstone of the widow of Colonel John Morris in South Kirkby Church, her husband is described as "a martyr for his king and country." The body of Colonel John Morris was buried at Wentworth, "near unto the grave of my worthy lord and master, the late famous Earl of Strafford," at his own desire as expressed in his will.

[It is worth noting that his son, Castilion Morris,

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

who was brought up to the law, became town clerk for the Corporation of Leeds in 1684, where he died December 18th, 1702. He was created by Charles, Duke of Somerset, muster-master of the train-bands for the East Riding of Yorkshire, March 6th, 1684; and he was afterwards author of "The History and Surprise of Pontefract Castle by Colonel John Morris, Governor of the said castle for King Charles I., anno 1648, with the trial of the said Colonel Morris and Cornet Blackburne, with their behaviour and Speeches at their execution at York, 23rd August, 1649," in MSS. afterwards in the hands of his daughter, Mrs. Sharpe, of Leeds (1733), who said that her father was born in Pontefract Castle, which occasioned his Christian name, Castilion.]

Demolition The Parliament at once ordered the of castle to be dismantled and rendered for **Pontefract** ever untenable. Lambert* carried out **Castle** the order to the letter, unroofed the buildings, sold off all the valuable materials, and left the fortress a heap of ruins.

A statement of the charges for demolishing the castle, and the particulars of the materials sold, and to whom sold, is still extant, from which it appears that the monies received—

* Major General Lambert was afterwards member of Parliament for Pontefract in 1658, but after "the glorious (?) Restoration" he fell into the hands of his enemies, and died in confinement on Plymouth Island in 1683.

Demolition of Pontefract Castle

For Lead amounted to the sum of	£1,543	7	2
„ Timber „ „ „ „ -	201	7	10
„ Iron „ „ „ „ -	37	2	4
„ Glass „ „ „ „ -	1	0	0
Total - -	£1,779	17	4

The charges for demolishing amounted to	£777	4	6
Monies allotted to the town of Pontefract	1,000	0	0
Monies due to the Commonwealth -	2	12	10
	£1,779	17	4

The cost of its demolition, and the monies raised by the sale of the material, considering the value of money 250 years ago, will give us some idea of the strength and proportions of this fortress.

Thus fell the Castle of Pontefract, which for six hundred years had played such an important part in the history of the north. It had been the residence of the proud and warlike Norman Barons, the home of the imperious Dukes of Lancaster, the residence of princes and kings, the last stronghold of the Cavaliers. It had been the scene of many a pageant, and of many a dark and bloody deed. Before its walls thousands had fallen in siege and storm, and one cannot stand upon its ruined walls to-day without feeling that he is upon historic ground; or casting his eyes around to Monkhill, Baghill, and St. Thomas Hill can he fail to recall the days when our ancestors witnessed the tramp of armed men, listened to the boom of the cannon, and the bustle and confusion that the demolition of the castle called forth.

CHAPTER XV

With the close of the great Civil War the history of the olden time reaches its natural conclusion. The incidents of the Plantagenet and Tudor Periods, which have furnished the groundwork of so many delightful works of fiction, from Scott's "Ivanhoe" to J. S. Fletcher's "When Charles the First was King," and which are so closely associated with the era during which the old feudal system was in operation, became impossible under the altered conditions of the 17th century. The state of society, the amusements of the people, the manners and customs of all classes underwent a decisive change, and everything showed that the "good old times," as they are still called, had passed away never to return.

Castleford Some four years after the fall of Pontefract Castle, the Castleford parish registers **Registers** now in existence, began, that is, on the 29th September, 1653. We give a list of the more striking surnames which occur in the first century afterwards, as it is interesting to note that some of these surnames still survive in Castleford :—Brough, a frequent name; Ringrose, common; Collett, Hartley, Shillito, Nunns, Batty, Linley, Ledgard,

Castleford Parish Registers

Lapidge ; Ainsley, Winship, Warde, Wade, Waide, Waringe, Burland, Skoot, Lake, Bilcliffe (Glass Houghton), Sunderland, Ramsgill, Redman, Bell and Scott (churchwardens in 1668), Haggar, Popplewell, Favell, Bland, Clough, Sissons, Malkin, Senyard, Senyor, Wager, Sudbury de Houghton, 1675; Wharton, Dawtry, Roodes, Collyer of Houghton, Carter, Bramfoot, William Clifton of Houghton, gentleman, 1690, Fleeming of Houghton, Langfield of Houghton, 1696, Bucktrout, Gawthorp, Imeson of Houghton, 1704, Shutt, Pagett of Houghton, Strickland, Pilkington de Castleford, 1712, Hoole de Houghton, gentleman, Heptenstall, Cotton Horn de Houghton, 1712, gentleman; Travis, Gawthorp de Castleford, Marcus Andrew and Cotton Horne Ecclise, Guardiani et Supervisores pauperum, 1717, the latter a churchwarden of Castleford in 1729, Foster de Castleford; Jubb, Lowther, 1724; Penrose of Houghton, Westerby of Houghton, Robert Wiggin, and Mr. Henry Fenney, churchwardens, 1728; Robert Wiggin and Cotton Horne, 1729, Durin, 1731, Dirill 1733; Garlick 1735; Bingham 1761, Speight, 1761.

From the Exchequer Lay Subsidy Rolls, we extract the following, being a list of the persons who are entered on the "Hearth Tax Roll" of Charles the Second, 1666.

Castleford is here written "Castleforth;" the entries are for one hearth each, except where more are recorded.

"Mr. Birbecke, (cum alias for the parson's

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

par(sonag)e 6," (The parson being Dr. Bradley, Rector of Ackworth as well as of Castleford).

" William Bloome	Thomas Gibson et filias 8
Matthew Bloome	Elizabeth Pinder 3
John Lake 3	Bridgett Horton
Thomas Webster,	George Ledgard 2
Edward Hacaster	Richard Shillitoe 2
John Shillitoe	Jennit Duffield
William Rusing	Valentine Warren
Thomas Ashton	Richard Duffield
William Ashton	John Pease 2
Thomas Watson	George Grasome
Ann Shillitoe	Richard Makeing
John Gibson	John Brough 2
Jove Collett	Sara Barton
Edward Batty 3	James Wilson
Richard Dawson	Ann Ashton. Total 53.

In the same rolls we find—

Ackworth	-	-	taxed for 182 hearths.
Badsworth	-	-	" " 56 "
fferry ffryston	-	"	" " 107 "
ffeatherstone	-	"	" " 72 "
Knottingley	-	"	" " 182 "
Pontefract	-	"	" " 494 "
Tansell (Tanshelf)-	"	"	" " 67 "

In 1671 there died at Ledstone Hall, Sir John Lewis or Lewys, the founder of the hospital (alms-houses) which stands just behind the church at Ledsham, for the maintenance of ten aged poor,

who are required by the terms of his will "religiously to observe the Sabbath, and to be present at church in time of Divine Service and Sermon."

Castleford is again mentioned in a charter granted to Pontefract by Charles the Second in 1678, from which we extract the following:—"An whereas by an Inquisition taken by our mandate at Castle-furth, in our County of York, on the 2nd September, now last past (1678), certified into our chancery, and there remaining on record, by the oaths of honest and lawful men of the county aforesaid, it is assuredly found that it will not be to the damage or prejudice of us or others, or to the detriment of any neighbouring market or fair, if we should grant to the mayor and burgesses of Pontefract, two new markets or fairs, &c."

Nevison About the period referred to above, the district was much frequented by at least one dishonest and law-breaking character in James Nevison, the notorious highwayman. This "Claude Duval" of the north must have made a deep impression upon the minds of the inhabitants, for his name is still remembered after the lapse of over two hundred years. He seems to have been popularly regarded as a highwayman who robbed the rich and gave some of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. The natives of Barnsdale still point out the bishop's tree, near which he robbed the Bishop of Hereford, and compelled that divine to dance a measure with him upon the green. A deep cutting through the rock, on the road between Pontefract and Ferry-

bridge is called to this day "Nevison's Leap," while near by is the inn named after him, with its painted signboard depicting Nevison and his horse taking a flying leap over the ravine. This notorious character was eventually captured in an inn at Sandal, condemned and executed at York in 1684. There are good grounds for believing that it was Nevison, and not Dick Turpin who accomplished the feat of riding his horse from London to York in one day. Turpin was a much greater pest to society than even Nevison, having been in turn highwayman, horse-stealer and murderer. He, too, was hanged at York in the year 1739.



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CASTLEFORD BRIDGE

CHAPTER XVI

Castleford All records of Castleford during the 18th in the 18th century go to show that it was a rural **Century** agricultural village, standing on the banks of a clear and beautiful river, the favourite resort of anglers from the surrounding district. Persons still living have heard their parents tell of having seen salmon, trout and grayling sporting in the river, alas! now despoiled of its purity by the foul pollutions of the West Riding towns. The Aire and the Calder can no longer lay claim to the ancient ditty:—

“ Castleford lasses might well be fair,
For they wash in Calder and rinse in Aire.”

The cause of their “fairness” must now be sought for apart from the efficacy of the waters of these murky streams.

We have examined an old plan of Castleford, dated 1752. It appears to have been made for a Mr. Sager, formerly an extensive owner of land in the locality, and is interesting as showing the different roads, the old course of the river, the old farmsteads, the old bridge of seven arches (demolished in 1804), the owners of property, and certain fields

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marked as "owned by the poor," also the site of the old 17th century pottery, standing off Ferrybridge Road, then known as London Road. This pottery acquired some reputation in its day for its antique black and stone ware. The plan also shows a direct road down Wheldon Lane right through to Ferrybridge, only part of which now exists.

Of old Castleford only vestiges remain. One hundred and fifty years ago the village consisted of a street called Jane Ridge-lane (now Albion Street), and Gilcroft-lane (near the end of Carlton Street), Water-lane along the river bank, and Bridge Street leading to Heald Bottom, at the junction of London Road (Ferrybridge Road) and the present Pontefract Road.

Among the landmarks still existing are the old houses in Church Street, a portion of the mill across the river, in which doubtless the miller of that day was as easy-going and contented as his namesake on the Dee; certain old cottages in Bridge Street, and two or three beerhouses. Fryston was scarcely discernible on the map; as to Whitwood, the coal-pit on Fairies-hill, and a disused pit close by were the only harbingers of the present important industry there. Allerton Bywater boasted a small pottery, a disused coal-pit and the Boat Inn. Glass Houghton was an exception, being a place of some pretensions. The large number of disused coal-pits, limestone quarries, and sand-pits still testify to its earlier prosperity.

Extract from old Account Book

A contrast of the prices of articles of consumption, wages, and manners of living of our great grand-fathers in the good old times, with those of the present day is very interesting. Here are a few extracts from the pages of an old account book formerly belonging to a gentleman in this district. The entries given include the period from 1762 to 1780 :—

“ Four sheep £3 ;

Paid for killing three pigs 3s. ;

Sack of oats and a load of oatmeal £1 ;

Paid my man six days' wages 6s. ;

Paid for five days thatching and watering straw, 8s. ;

Paid seven weeks wages £2 2s. ;

Paid a person at Featherstone Moor for 5,900 bricks in full of all demands now and for ever £2 19s. ;

1½ years' payment of window money (tax) at 2s. per window £2 5s. 6d. ;

Paid for catching moles 4s. 6d. ;

Paid for shoeing black mare 5s. 2d. ;

Paid for breaking in colt and tail cutting off 10s. 6d. ;

2 loads of coals and leading 6s. 9d. ;

24 thraves of straw 16s.” (The word “ thrave ” was peculiar to Yorkshire, and signified sometimes 6 and sometimes 12 sheaves).

At the period of which we are writing, it was considered a great privilege to receive fish from York twice every week. A handbill issued by a

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

William Dawson, the Pontefract, Castleford and Ferrybridge carrier in 1780, acquaints his patrons of speedy communication between Pontefract and York as follows:—

“William Dawson, carrier, begs his best thanks to the inhabitants of York and Pontefract for the long support he and his late father have experienced from them, and takes this method to acquaint them that he continues to set out from Pontefract as usual every Thursday morning; arrives at York that evening; returns from thence on Friday noon to Pontefract, where he exposes fish to sale on Saturday. He proposes also to set out from Pontefract every Monday morning at 11 o'clock; to arrive at York that night; to leave York next morning at ten o'clock; get to Pontefract that night, and sell fish there on Wednesday and Thursday. To this new journey, as well as the old one, he hopes for the encouragement of the public, by being favoured with parcels, &c.

WILLIAM DAWSON.”

Riot at Castleford A serious riot occurred at Castleford during the year 1795. Many of the inhabitants who were suffering great hardships from the high price of provisions and the difficulty of providing for the necessities of their families, seized a vessel laden with corn which was passing up the river, and did not abandon their prize until the military arrived and captured about a dozen of the ringleaders.

At the commencement of the 19th century, the



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The Earthenware Industry

population of Castleford was 793; in 1811 it numbered 890; ten years later the returns were 1022; in 1831 owing to the introduction of the glass bottle industry the population had gone up to 1,141, and in 1851 it reached 2,150; in 1861 it had increased to 3,876. Following the development of the coal-mines the population began to increase at a rapid rate, reaching 14,143 in 1891, and the census of 1901 returns the population as 17,386. Add to this the last census returns relating to the adjoining townships of Allerton Bywater 3,516, Whitwood 4,873, and Glass Houghton 2,950, and we have a population altogether of 28,725.

The Earthenware Industry The Pottery Industry has existed in Castleford since the middle of the 17th century. Common brown and stone ware was the staple production up to the end of the 18th century, when David Dunderdale, a member of an old Methley family established a pottery for the manufacture of the finer kinds of earthenware at Whitwood Mere, which at that time formed part of the parish of Featherstone. Dunderdale took into partnership a Mr. Plowers, and in 1803 the firm was known as "D. Dunderdale & Company." The staple production of this firm was the cream-coloured ware, of very superior quality and design, which is now very much sought after by connoisseurs and commands a high price at sales of the antique.

In 1826 the Aire and Calder Navigation Company commenced the construction of their canal. At that period the magistrates' court was held

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

fortnightly at the Ship Inn, in Bridge Street, the presiding magistrates being Thomas Davison Bland, Esq., of Kippax Park, and the Rev. Theophilus Barnes, M.A., Rector of Castleford.

A regular service of boats plied with passengers and goods between Castleford and Goole, the steps leading to the landing-stage may still be seen close to the bridge off Wheldon Lane. A coach also ran from the Ship Inn to meet the stage-coaches on the Great North Road at Ferrybridge. In front of this inn stands the "Castleford Forum" better known now as the "Lamp Post," where local politicians have been wont to hold forth and discuss most profound political and social questions ever since the Reform Agitation of 1831.

Chemical Works In 1864 the Chemical Industry was introduced, and four years later witnessed the commencement of the Wheldale Collieries, and an influx of miners; subsequently other pits were started in the neighbourhood, so that to-day the town may be said to be surrounded by a belt of collieries.

The Glass Bottle Industry The year 1829 saw the introduction of the Glass Bottle Industry. A number of energetic workmen from Mr. John Bower's works at Hunslet resolved to start business for themselves, and agreed to settle down at Whitwood Mere, where they tenanted a cone which had been formerly used for the manufacture of Britannia metal, such as spoons, &c. The speculation eventually proved a success. In 1834 a Mr.

The Glass Bottle Industry

Winterbottom and Dr. Jessop bought four acres of land from the late Lord Houghton for the sum of £495, upon which the Ryebread Glass-works were erected. Business transactions introduced Mr. Edgar Breffit, a London merchant, who eventually along with a Mr. Walker made a contract to take the whole of the bottles made by Messrs. Winterbottom and Jessop. Things continued in this way until 1839, when Mr. Breffit took the place of Dr. Jessop. Five years later Mr. Winterbottom retired, and Mr. Edgar Breffit became sole proprietor, and by his business tact and energy made the Ryebread Works one of the chief glass bottle manufactories in the north of England. This gentleman took a great interest in everything tending to the welfare of his adopted town; he also earned high honours in municipal life, and died Sheriff of London in 1882.

Vast changes have taken place in Castleford during the lifetime of the older residents. The removal of old landmarks, and the substitution of new streets and buildings date from about the year 1840. The willow garths which adorned the country walk through Wheldale Lane have long since given place to rows of cottages; the orchards and gardens which covered much of the space lying between Back Lane (now Carlton Street) and Aire Street have all disappeared. The market has usurped the site of some of these orchards, as well as the site of the old pinfold. Business premises have supplanted the old rustic farmhouse which was once a feature of Church Street, and the 13th century

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

church, said on reliable authority to have been rebuilt or restored by John o' Gaunt, has been replaced by a modern structure. Dr. Whitaker, in his history "Loidis and Elmete," observes that "the old church which was dedicated to All Hallows must have been erected by one of the De Lacies, and the little parish consisting only of the townships of Castleford and Houghton, was in all probability detached from that of Methley, another of their domains, to which no less than seven carucates of land are assigned in Domesday."

We have searched diligently amongst the ancient records, but can find no documents or charters to confirm the worthy doctor's supposition that Castleford once formed a part of Methley parish.

Castleford Church The first mention of Castleford Church which we have met with, is in a charter of Henry de Lacy, in the time of Henry the Second, by which he grants it, with its appurtenances, to the hospital of Burton Lazars, in Leicestershire, but it is evident that this grant never took effect. The same lord bestowed the profits of the ferry at Castleford on the monks of Pontefract. Long afterwards two-thirds of the tithe of the demesne lands in this parish were alienated by John o' Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, for the maintenance of a chaplain in St. Clement's Chapel, within the Castle of Pontefract. The windows of the old church were formerly bordered with the arms of Castile and England, labelled, which were those of John o' Gaunt. The arms also of the Nevilles adorned one of the



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CASTLEFORD CHURCH

Castleford Church

western windows.

The church was rebuilt in 1866, the funds being provided by voluntary subscriptions and a church-rate of 10d. in the £. This was the last church-rate ever laid in this district.

The present church is in style early decorated, and has the form of a Latin cross. Three arches on the north side of the nave, and the greater part of the north aisle were erected about 1852 by the Rev. Theophilus Barnes, the rector. They are perpendicular in style, and the three arches have carved capitols. The font and the pulpit are chiefly of Farleigh Down stone, the first-named showing a quarterfoil resting on marble pillars; it is elegantly carved, having four devices, representing Christ blessing little children; the Baptism of Christ by St. John; Christ Baptising; and Christ and the Woman of Samaria. The font was presented by the friends of the Rev. W. T. M. Sylvester, rector, and cost £22. The pulpit has a flat face down the front, supported by short marble pillars, whereon is wrought a representation of the Crucifixion. Among the stained windows are memorials to the Rev. Theophilus Barnes, M.A., and to the Rev. W. T. M. Sylvester, M.A., former rectors. The tower is square, and has a flat unbattlemented top with pierced parapet. Close by the church are some almshouses, and the Church Day and Sunday Schools.

The following is a complete list of the Rectors of Castleford since the 13th century:—

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

- 1269, Thomas Berks. Patron, Henry de Lacy.
1312, Henry de Milegh. Patron, Thomas Earl of Lancaster.
1332, John de Penesey. Patron, Queen Isabelle.
1339, William de Exon. Patron, Queen Isabelle.
1341, William Cross. Patron, Queen Isabelle.
1341, Thomas Bartlett. Patron, Queen Isabelle.
1353, Dominus John de Kynemersford. Patron, Henry Duke of Lancaster.
1366, Dominus John de Ledecombe (resigned). Patron, John, Duke of Lancaster.
1367, Dominus Hugh de Felton. Patron, John, Duke of Lancaster.
1379, Dominus Henry Hales. Patron, John, Duke of Lancaster.
1398, William Wooderove (buried at Castleford). Patron John, Duke of Lancaster.
1398, Thomas de Longeley. Patron, John, Duke of Lancaster.
— Galfrid de Middleton.
1403, Edmund Lacy (buried at Castleford). Patron, Henry IV
— Dominus John Prentys. Patron, Henry IV.
1408, Dominus John Petelet. Patron, Henry IV.
1419, Dominus Walter Power. Patron, Henry V.
1431, Dominus Johannis Awty. Patron, Henry VI.
1435, Dominus Henry Senior (resigned). Patron, Henry VI
1436, Dominus Thomas Hamibal. Patron, Henry VI.
1446, Dominus William Osgodby. Patron, Henry VI.
1486, Dominus John Spicer. Patron, Henry VII.
1502, Nicholas Morley. Patron, Henry VII.
1505, Christian Fisher. Patron, Henry VII.
1512, Peter Bollent. Patron, Henry VIII.
1523, William Atkinson. Patron, Henry VIII.
1537, Francis Mellet. Patron, Henry VIII.
1569, William Harrison. Patron, Queen Elizabeth.
1602, John North. Patron, Sir Thomas Bland.
1630, Thomas Bradley (also rector of Ackworth). Patron, Charles I.
Henry Moorhouse (over whose name a later hand has written usurper ").

Rectors of Castleford since the 13th Century

- 1663, Peter Birkbeck. Patron, Charles II.
1673, William Bridges, Senr. Patron, Charles II.
1696, William Bridges, Junr. Patron, William III.
1729, John Foss, M.A. Patron, Duke of Rutland and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
1753, John Sumner, D.D. (also rector of Barwick-in-Elmet). Patron, Lord Edjecumbe.
1753, Robert Deane, B.D. (also rector of Barwick-in-Elmet).
1784, John Rowe, B.A.
1803, Theophilus Barnes, M.A. (also rector of Stonegrave and Prebend of York). Patron, Chancellor of the Duchy.
1855, William Thomas Mainwaring Sylvester, M.A. (late curate of Howden). Patron, Chancellor of the Duchy.
1888, Joseph Simpson (resigned). Patron, Chancellor of the Duchy.
1892, Robert Gardner-Smith, F.L.S. Patron, Chancellor of the Duchy.

In the churchyard are many old tombstones, some of which have quaint epitaphs, as witness the following specimens:—

" In memory of

George Brook, who died September 4th, 1856, aged 48.

Tho' Borea's blasts and Neptune's waves
Have toss'd me to and fro,
Yet here at last by God's decree,
I harbour here below,
While here at anchor ride,
With many of our fleet,
Yet once again I shall set sail
With Admiral Christ to meet,
And there to anchor free from strife,
With Jesus to renew my life."

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The following possesses neither rhyme or reason :—

" In memory of

Ann Warwick, ob 15th July 1790 Ætat 32.

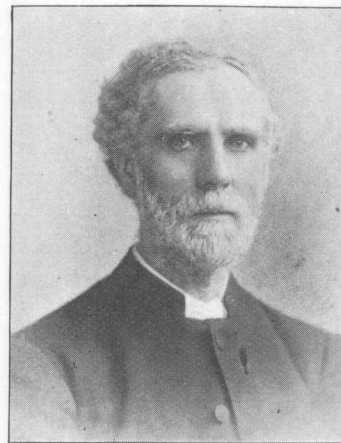
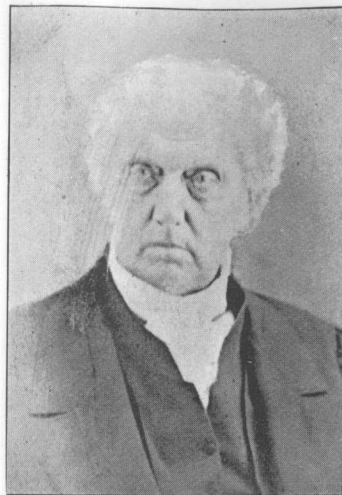
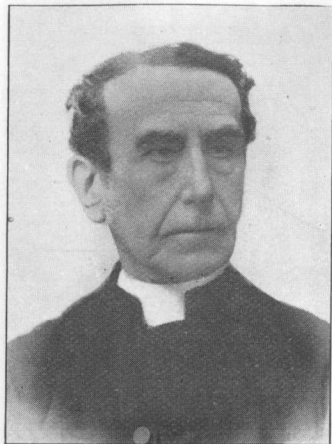
'Tis but a night
A long and moonless night,
We make ye grave our Bed
And then are gone."

The oldest tombstone we found is inscribed thus :—

" Here lyeth the Body of Francis Rasin, who departed
this life JVLV the 12th, 1681 "

Perhaps the following, relating to the old church of Castleford, may be of some interest to the present generation :—

From Lawson's "Collections relative to the Dioceses of York and Ripon" published in 1842, we take this extract: "Castleford, anciently Casterford. All Saints (Rectory in charge). Area 2,040 acres. In the Osgoldcross Wapentake U.D. Population 1587 viz: Castleford 1141, Glass Houghton 446. Church room 500, in 1818 was 600. Net value £555. In the time of King Stephen, Henry de Lacy gave the ferry at Castleford to the monks of Pontefract. This is an ancient rectory belonging to the patronage of the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln, and in the time of Henry II. Henry de Lacy gave it to the Hospital of Burton Lazars, in the county of Leicester, notwithstanding which, they obtained it again, as the Lacies were the constant patrons thereof until it descended to the House of Lancaster.



RECTORS OF CASTLEFORD

REV. W. T. M. SYLVESTER, M.A.
1855 TO 1888

REV. T. BARNES, M.A.
1803 TO 1855

REV. R. GARDNER-SMITH, F.L.S.
1892 ———

Castleford Old Church

Patron: the Lord Chancellor. The value in Pope Nicholas' taxation is £16; in the King's books £20 13s. 1½d., and in the Parliamentary Survey vol 18, page 385, is £95 per annum. Synodals 5s. Procuration 6s. 6d."

The "Notitia Parochialis" No. 571 says respecting Castleford:—"A Rectory endowed with the whole tithes, saving that the Duke of Lancaster, being Lord of the Manor, alienated two-thirds of the tithe of corn and hay, arising from his demesne lands (to the present value of £6 or £7 per annum) from the church, towards the maintenance of a chaplain in Pontefract Castle; the same is now in the estate of John Savile esq of Methley. Besides this, there is another alienation of the whole tithe corn and hay, arising from a parcel of ground called Hardwick road, of the value of £1 per annum, in the possession of John Pierrepont of Nottingham, esq. or his assigns, but when or by whom the alienation was made is altogether unknown. The living is above the annual value of £300."

Apropos of the tithes we find the following:—

"Case of Sumner v Wiggin. The Rector is entitled to the tithe both of the first and second crop of Clover Hay made on Farr Carr Close, although there is a modus of 1s. a year payable on all lands when used as meadow in lieu of all manner of tithe hay."

"The tithes of this parish are settled by Act of Parliament; the rector receives 28 quarters of

wheat for every £1 rent paid by the tenant to his landlord on arable land, and 20 quarters for every £2 of rent on grass-land." (*See Langdale's Topographical Dictionary.*)

The Old Church. The following is a description of the old church as remembered by some of the aged inhabitants of Castleford we have conversed with. The form was that of a cross, with the tower standing in the part where the arms cross each other; this tower was of massive construction, standing on large square pillars, which form the angles of the transepts. In the south pillar was what is known to archæologists as a Hagioscope or "Squint," which indicates that the south transept was at some period a private chapel, and contained an altar; the use of the Hagioscope was that the priest officiating therein could see the pulpit, or probably the hour-glass, which formerly stood at the left hand of the preacher before the introduction of clocks and watches. This seems to indicate that the tower would be an ancient part of the edifice that was pulled down some forty years ago.

The east window contained a few pieces of stained glass, and formerly there was a coat-of-arms in one of the western windows, being those of the Neville family, viz: argent, a Saltire Gules. This was removed when the edifice was undergoing repairs in 1830. The Neville family descended from Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria in 969; they became closely allied by marriage to the Lancasters, and played an important part on the side of the Yorkists in

Castleford Old Church

the Wars of the Roses. A later Neville married a daughter of Sir Thomas Bland, of Kippax Park, about the year 1670. This no doubt accounts for the arms of the Nevilles finding a place in one of the windows of Castleford old church. Another window was bordered with the arms of John o' Gaunt.

The tower contained three bells, on the largest of which was this inscription:—

"Theophilus Barnes, Rector. Thomas Powell and Thomas Smith, Churchwardens."

These bells have since been taken down, and placed in the tower of the church at Whitwood Mere.

In the wall on the left of the altar was a Piscino, in an excellent state of preservation. There were several tombstones in the church which had at one time affixed to them monumental brasses. There was also a stone font near the porch, of a very antique and massive kind, with a suspended cover; this font we remember as adorning the old rectory grounds, and it has recently been removed to the new church at Glass Houghton.

The church also contained a Norman archway leading to the choristers' vestry, which would be perhaps the only vestige of the old church built by Henry de Lacy. Formerly the choir was assisted by performers on string and reed instruments. In 1830 a barrel organ playing twelve tunes was presented by Mr. Bland, of Kippax Park; this gave way to the present instrument, built by Denham in

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

1876. The silver communion plate now in use at this church was the gift of Lady Betty Hastings, of Ledstone Hall, nearly two hundred years ago.

Charities Jeremiah Hudson's Charity, by will, dated 1803 :—Rent-charge of £2 per annum to the poor, charged on half an acre of land in Castleford Ings. The land has been subsequently given up to the trustees.

Rawson's Charity :—The interest of £10 per annum, left by widow Rawson, and distributed at Christmas.

Thackerah's Charity :—Interest of £20 left to the poor of Houghton.

Houghton's Poores' Estate :—Rent of 3 ac. 1 r. 2 p. of land and two cottages, and the rent of two acres in Houghton Carr is paid to the overseer ; and the residue should be distributed in money and warm clothing, at the discretion of the Rector, who is the sole trustee.

On the north-east corner there formerly was affixed a board containing the following list of benefactions :—

“ To the Poor of the Parish of Castleford.”

Thomas Dawtry, two tenements and one orchard,

			ac.	r.	p.
In Houghton Carr	...	...	1	0	0
In the Great West Field	...	...	0	1	0
The Three Cornered Close	...	...	1	0	0

To the Poor of the Township

Widow Rawson's £10.

Public Buildings

Thomas Harrison rent-charge in his new close
£0 10s. 0d.

Jeremiah Hudson, bent shute in the Ings, to the
poor of the township 0 a. 2 r. 0 p.

Job Shilito £20 0s. 0d.

During the incumbency of the present rector (the
Rev. R. Gardner-Smith, F.L.S.) the first portion of
a new church, dedicated to St. Paul, has been built
at Glass Houghton at a cost of £4,500. The site
was given, and the foundation stone laid by John
Davison Bland, Esq., of Kippax Park.

Public Buildings Next to the Parish Church, the chief
public buildings of Castleford are:—

The Mechanics' Hall, erected by public subscrip-
tion in 1859. After having done splendid educational
work for upwards of forty years, it has recently
been handed over to the Castleford Urban District
Council for the purposes of a Free Library and
Public Reading Room.

The Wesleyan Church in Carlton Street was
erected in 1859 to take the place of the old Chapel
in Wesley Street, opened in 1814, and now con-
verted into a Day School.

The Congregational Church and Powell Street
United Methodist Free Church were opened in
1863 and 1853 respectively; the Bradley Street
Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1866 to
replace an old structure which stood at the junction
of Carlton and Church Streets.

The large and commodious Market Hall was
opened in 1880 by the first Lord Houghton. St.

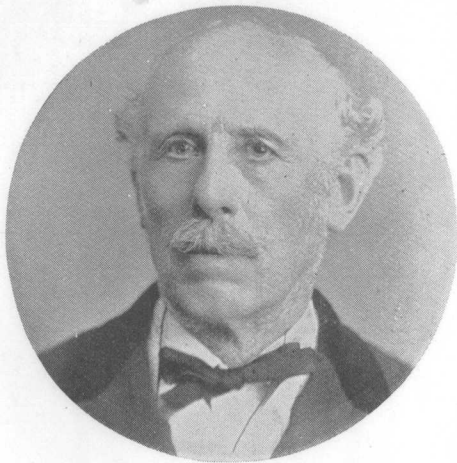
Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Pontefract Road was erected about 1891, the Police Court in 1897, and the Queen's Hall in 1899.

In honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 the Queen's Park was opened. The Park covers an area of about thirteen acres, and is situated on Red Hill, an eminence standing about 251 feet above sea-level, and 177 feet above the river. It was the joint gift of the Earl of Crewe and John Davison Bland, Esq. From the park an extensive view opens out northwards, embracing the well-wooded parks of Ledstone, Kippax, Swilington and Parlington. On the summit of the hill are the rapidly diminishing ruins of a house, known locally as the "White House," a once prominent landmark.

At the redistribution of seats in 1885, Castleford was placed in the Parliamentary Division of Osgoldcross, which Division has since 1886 been represented in Parliament by a Castleford citizen in the person of Sir John Austin, Bart.

The following is a list of the Magistrates of Castleford in the order of their qualification:—

Sir John Austin, Bart., October 19th, 1874.
Dr. Ebenezer Walker Kemp, April 6th, 1885 (Chairman).
Alderman Hugh McDowall Clokie, January 1st, 1894
John Simpson, January 1st, 1894. [since deceased.
William Michael Byron Austin, January 1st, 1894.
Joseph Shaw Crowther, October 18th, 1897.
Job Harling, April 5th, 1897.
Alderman Arthur Hartley, June 27th, 1898.
Aaron Davies, July 1st, 1901.
William Wilson Macvay, July 1st, 1901.
John Standish Thomas Joseph Austin, July 1st, 1901.
Charles Ibbotson Hartley, July 1st, 1902,



SIR JOHN AUSTIN, BART., M.P.



ALDERMAN BREFFIT

CHAPTER XVII

The There is no doubt that the name **Led-**
Parish of sham was derived either from **Leedes**
Ledsham Ham—a hamlet depending upon or connected with Leeds—or from **Leedes Hem**, the skirt, border, or frontier of the Region of Loidis. The notice in Domesday is as follows, and as **Led-**
stone and **Kippax** are both referred to in the same paragraph, we shall give the whole at once. “In **Chipesch** and **Ledestune**, Earl Edwin had 18 carucates to be taxed, and there may be ten ploughs there. Land properly called **Berewic** belongs to this manor, in which there are eight carucates to be taxed, and there may be four ploughs there. **Ilbert de Lacy** now has this land, where he has twelve ploughs in the demesne, and forty-eight villanes and twelve bordars, with sixteen ploughs. There are three churches and three priests, and three mills of ten shillings. Wood pasture two miles long and one broad. The whole manor five miles long and two broad. Value in King Edward’s time sixteen pounds, the same now.”

Thus it is evident that the marauding soldiers of the Conqueror had either overlooked this favoured parish, or that there were circumstances connected

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

with the conduct or the influence of the Saxon possessors which saved their homes and their lands from the barbarous desolation in which the rest of the district was involved. What those circumstances were, we are unable, in the absence of all authentic record, to conjecture. There must, however, have been in these parishes at the time of the Survey, a population of at least six hundred persons. There can be little doubt that the three churches mentioned were those of Barwick, Kippax and Ledstone.

The At the time of the Conquest **Ledstone Manor of** was the property of Earl Edwin, whose **Ledstone** lands were forfeited to the Crown like those of the rest of the Saxon freeholders, and he himself was afterwards slain while fighting on the side of his brother, the great Earl Morcar, who led the Northumbrians in their rebellion against the Norman conquerors.

During Norman times, the Manor was the fief of the De Lacies. We have examined a charter of Plantagenet times whereby Edward the First grants to Godfrey, Prior of Pontefract, free warren of the Manor of Ledstone. Early in the Tudor Period it came into the possession of the Harebred family, who hailed from Suffolk. A pedigree of this family is given in Thoresby's "*Ducatus Leodiensis*." In the time of Edward the Sixth a Richard Harebred sold the Manors of Ledstone, Ledsham and Newton Wallis to Sir Richard Saltonstall, who afterwards sold them to the Withams, an ancient

The Manor of Ledstone

family, who are said to have built the older parts of the present hall, and who resided there during several generations. We have in a former chapter referred to the death of a William Witham, of Ledstone Hall, in 1593, by the supposed witchcraft of one Mary Pannal. In 1629 Henry Witham sold the estates to Sir Thomas Wentworth, afterwards first Earl of Strafford, who resided here for a time, and appears to have formed a strong attachment to the place, since it is known that he spent large sums in improvements and enlargements. We gather from a perusal of the deeds at Ledstone Hall that Strafford was deprived of his estate by the Long Parliament by the Act of Attainder, but it was restored to his son in 1653, who the following year sold it to Sir John Lewis, Bart., a wealthy Indian nabob, from whom the present owner has descended. Sir John Lewis spent enormous sums of money in adding to the beauty of the hall, gardens and park. Still preserved at Ledstone Hall is the beautifully engrossed Patent of his Baronetage, and also his pedigree from the time of Edward the Confessor to his two co-heiresses, Elizabeth and Mary, a most elaborately coloured engrossed parchment, several yards in length.

We extract the following from Camden's "Britannia," 1722 edition:—"Not far from hence (Castleford) is Ledstone Hall, formerly the seat of the ancient family of the Withams, but late of Sir John Lewis, Baronet, who having got a vast estate during his nine years factorship for the East India

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Company (much augmented by the jewels presented him by the King of Persia, who much delighted in his company) dy'd here without issue male in the year 1671. He erected a curious hospital, and endowed it for the maintenance of ten aged poor people, who by his will are required religiously to observe the Sabbath-day, and to be present at church in time of Divine Service and Sermon. At present Ledston Hall is the seat of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, by the eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir John Lewis: which said Elizabeth (a true pattern of Piety and Charity) hath greatly improved and adorn'd this seat."

Lady Elizabeth Hastings left Ledstone to the heirs male of her half-brother, Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, and if these failed, to the descendants of her half-sister, Lady Catherine Maria Wheler. The Rev. Charles Medhurst, who assumed the surname of Wheler, succeeded under the will of his cousin, Granville Hastings Wheler, Esq.

Ledstone Hall appears to have been let continuously to the Ramsdens, Taylors, Wilsons, and others, from the death of Lady Elizabeth Hastings in 1739, until the Rev. Charles Wheler, grandfather to the present owner, came into possession.

In 1806 Ledstone Hall was honoured by a visit from the Prince of Wales (afterwards George the Fourth) and his brother, the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William the Fourth).



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LEDSTONE HALL

Ledstone Hall

The pedigree on the two following pages shows the descent of the present owner, Granville Charles Hastings Wheler, Esq., from Sir John Lewis, Bart.

Ledstone Hall Ledstone Hall is a fine specimen of Elizabethan architecture. It is beauti-

fully situated on the brow of a fine eminence, immediately overlooking Ledstone village, and commanding a fine prospect of the mountain ranges which run from the southmost district of the West Riding to the Peak in Derbyshire. The hall itself consists of a centre and two wings. In the gardens and grounds are the terraces which are a feature of this place; they were constructed at enormous expense, by Sir John Lewis, who laid out the spacious pleasure grounds, and adorned them with a profusion of statuary, of which a few specimens still remain. He also surrounded the park with a stone wall some eight feet high, and adorned it with a stately lodge built on an eminence at the north-east extremity, which commands a fine prospect eastwards, including the towers of York Minster, and the hills above Selby.

The interior of this fine old mansion is most interesting, bearing some similarity to Haddon Hall. In the room known as Lady Betty Hastings' room is a fine panelled oaken mantel-piece, bearing date 1588, and the initials W.W. and E.W., which refer to members of the Witham family. This ancient woodwork for some reason or other appears to have been hidden from sight for more than a century, and has only within the last few months

Pedigree of the Wheler Family,

OF LEDSTONE HALL, YORKS., AND OTTERDEN, KENT.

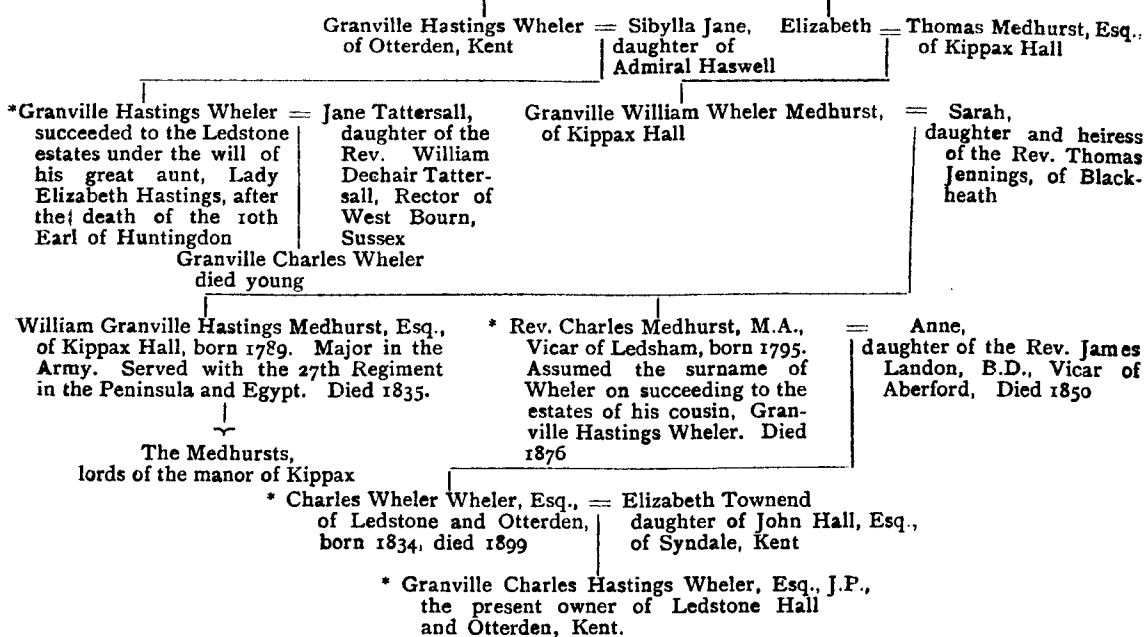
* Sir John Lewis, Bart. = Sarah Foote
Purchased the Manor of Ledstone from the
2nd Earl Strafford, died 1671 | daughter and heiress of
Sir Thomas Foote,
Lord Mayor of London.

* (1) Elizabeth = Theophilus = (2) Frances Mary = Robert Leake
7th Earl of Huntingdon, died 30th May, 1701 | daughter and heiress of Francis Leveson Fowler, of Harnage Grange | Earl of Scarsdale

George 8th Earl of Huntingdon died unmarried, 1704 | * Lady Elizabeth Hastings of Ledstone, the benefactress, died unmarried 1739

* Theophilus 9th Earl of Huntingdon, of Ledstone, died 1746 = Selina Shirley daughter and heiress of Earl Ferrers, died 1791. | Lady Catherine Maria Hastings = Rev. Granville Wheler son and heir of Sir George Wheler, Knt. of Otterden, Kent.

* Francis 10th Earl of Huntingdon, of Ledstone, last Earl of the senior line of Hastings, died unmarried, 1789. | Lady Elizabeth Hastings = Baron Rawdon, Earl of Moira
Marquise of Hastings



NOTE.—The successive owners of Ledstone Hall are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

been stripped of its thick layers of paint, revealing a unique specimen of 16th century carving, in a splendid state of preservation. Through the kindness and courtesy of Granville Charles Hastings Wheler, Esq., we are able to give the accompanying illustration of this ancient and artistic piece of wood-carving.

Another interesting art treasure in this room is the life-size oil-painting of Lady Betty Hastings, painted in 1709, when that noble lady would be about 28 years of age. A second picture of Lady Betty adorns the dining room, and the mansion contains many other valuable and historic pictures, including one of Sir John Lewis, Bart., the founder of the family, and several of the Earls of Huntingdon, one of whom, George, the eighth Earl, carried the sceptre at the coronation of Queen Anne.

There are also four large oil-paintings purchased in Paris by an ancestor of the Whelers, at a sale of the effects of Marshal Soult, the famous French commander. Two were taken from Spanish and two from Italian churches, during the Napoleonic Wars. The subjects of these valuable pictures are:

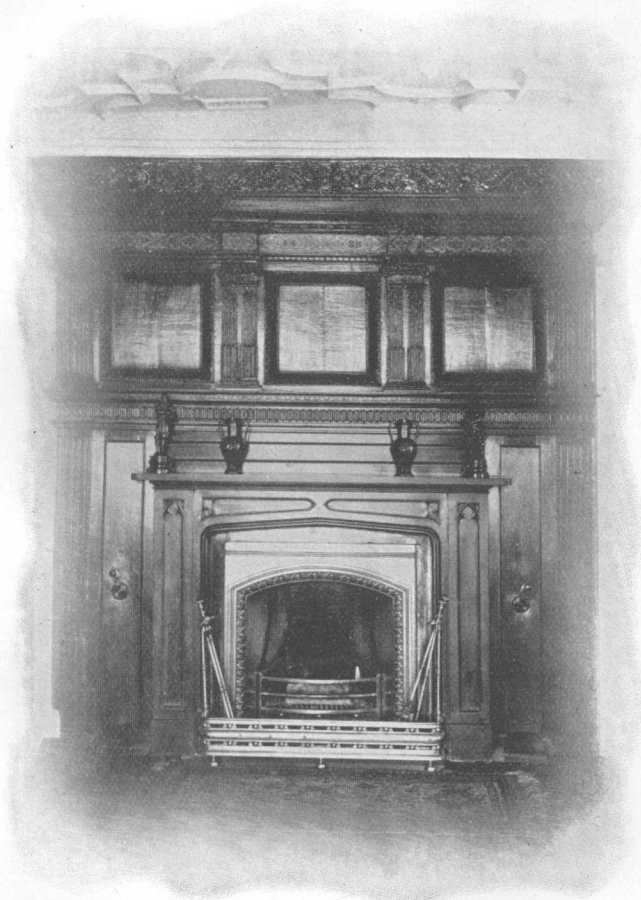
"Christ crowned with thorns," by Carlo Dolce.

"The Dead Christ," by Morales.

"St. Peter," by Ribera.

"The Magdalene," by Guido.

Lady Betty Hastings We have already referred to the historic associations of this mansion with the great Earl of Strafford, but locally the place is better known as the home of Lady Elizabeth



CHIMNEY-PIECE, LEDSTONE HALL

Lady Betty Hastings

Hastings, daughter of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon. Here she was born in 1682. This illustrious lady is celebrated by Sir Richard Steele, in the forty-second number of "The Tatler," as "A pattern to all who love things praiseworthy; an exact economist without appearing busy; the most strictly virtuous without tasting the praise of it; and shuns applause with as much industry as others do reproach." This was written in 1709, when she was in her 28th year. The notices of her in the public prints after her death are in as warm a strain of panegyric. In "Wilford's Memorials" we read:—"The splendour she derived from her birth and extraction, though great, strikes but faintly among the numerous and shining qualities of this most excellent lady. Graceful was her person, genteel her mien, polite her manners, agreeable her conversation, strong her regard to friendship, and strict to the last degree her sense of honour."

Leigh Hunt also has a charming essay on this pious and benevolent lady, whose name is for ever linked with this district, where she spent her life in the performance of charitable deeds. She was the founder of the orphanage at Ledsham, which, next to the beautiful and interesting church, is the most conspicuous edifice in this pleasant rural village. Most of the churches around this neighbourhood have received benefits at her hands. The poor and the suffering never appealed to her in vain. Numerous charities owe their existence to

her beneficence. By a codicil to her will we note that she "gave and devised all her manors, lands and hereditaments in Wheldale, Castleford, otherwise called Queldale, to Queen's College, Oxford, towards the maintenance of five poor scholars."

This noble-hearted lady died on the 22nd of December, 1739, in the 57th year of her age. The church at Ledsham contains a stately marble monument to her memory, as well as statues of her two amiable half-sisters; and an elegant Latin inscription records the character of this ornament of her sex. The carved figure, which is considered a handsome work of art, is placed on a sarcophagus, in a reclining position with an open book in her hand, and having statues of Lady Frances and Lady Anne Hastings, one on each side, bearing emblems of Piety and Prudence respectively.

Lady Bolles Adjoining is a monument to Lady Bolles, a daughter of the William Witham, of Ledstone Hall, who was supposed to have died under the witchcraft of Mary Pannal in 1593. This monument consists of a marble altar-tomb, with the effigy of the lady represented as wrapped in a shroud, leaving the bold features of the face exposed. She lived at Heath Hall, near Wakefield, and died there in 1662, but evidently cherished memories of her native place, as she directed in her will that "her body should be buried in Ledsham Church, and a decent tomb placed over it." The following is the inscription, now fast crumbling away:—



LADY BETTY HASTINGS, 1709

Lady Bolles

"Here lyeth interred the body of the Right Worshipful Dame Mary Bolles, of Heath Hall, in the County of York, Baronetess; one of the daughters of Wm. Witham, of the Ancient Family of the Withams, of Leadstone Hall, Esquire; who married to her first husband Thos. Jobson, of Cudworth, Esq., had issue Thos. Jobson. To her 2nd husband Thomas Bolles, Esq., she had issue Ann, who married Sir William Dalston, Bart. The same Dame Mary Bolles, being above 80 years of age, departed this mortal life at Heath Hall, the 5th day of May, 1662."

The parish registers at Kirkthorpe contain this curious entry:—"The bowels of Dame Mary Bolles of Heath was buried ye 5th day of May 1662 in ye churchyard of Kirkthorpe."

Lady Bolles née Mary Witham after the death of her second husband procured a Patent under the Great Seal, creating her a Baronetess in her own right, which title descended to her son, Thomas Jobson, of County Nottingham. She appears to have been a remarkable and eccentric lady, and long after her death her ghost was supposed to haunt the hall and grounds at Heath Common; but more reliable and interesting than any number of the weird stories which have been handed down to us, is the fact that she founded charities at Wakefield, Sandal, and other places, for apprenticing poor boys to useful trades, and otherwise helping the distressed and the aged.

In the upper end of the north aisle in Ledsham Church is a vault made for Sir John Lewis; on a stone over the entrance is this inscription:—

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

" Underneath this stone is the entrance into a vault for burial, at the east end of the quire, in which lyeth the body of Sir John Lewis late of Ledston Hall, Knight and Baronet, A.D. 1671."

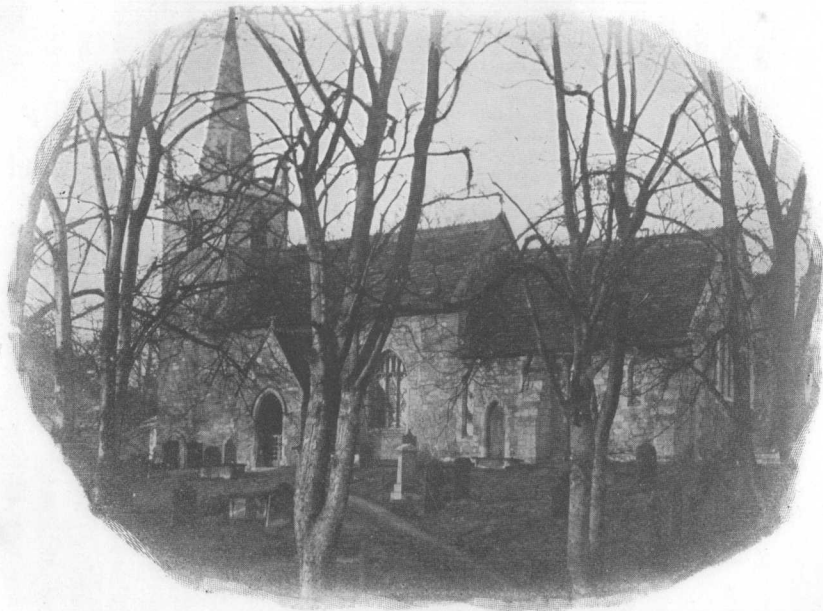
Against the south wall of the said choir is erected, in compliance with the will of Sir John Lewis, and for which he left £500, a noble monument of black and white marble for himself and his lady. His effigy is in armour, semi-recumbent, with a death's head in his hand; his lady beneath is represented as dressed in the fashion of the period. The monument is inscribed with a long account of the hospital built by him.

In front of the altar is an ancient tombstone to Thomas Johnson, dated 1606; another with a brass affixed inscribed:—

" Here lyeth interred the most virtuous gentlewoman, Jane, late wife of Peter Foljambe of Steeton, Esq., who lived a godly life, and dyed the 4th of September 1658."

In the east wall is a marble tablet to the Rev. Charles Wheler, for 26 years Vicar of Ledsham, and below a brass tablet to the memory of the late Charles Wheler Wheler, Esq., of Ledstone Hall.

In the churchyard is the grave and tombstone of Canon Landon (a relative of the poetess Miss Landon, better known to students of English Literature under the *nom-de-plume* of "L.E.L."). Canon Landon held the Vicarage of Ledsham for thirty-six years. His two sons are buried here, James Mark Landon, Esq., who died 15th July,



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LEDSHAM CHURCH

Ledsham Church

1890, aged 42 years, and Charles Landon, Esq., the famous Yorkshire Cricketer, who died at Ledstone Hall, 7th March, 1903. Here also is the grave of the Rev. Charles Wheler, died 20th November, 1877, aged 83 years, and close by, the tombstone of the late Charles Wheler Wheler, Esq., died 6th August, 1899, aged 64 years.

Ledsham Church Ledsham Church itself is an interesting edifice, beautifully situated on the rising ground in the centre of the village. It was founded by Robert de Lacy in the 12th century, and consists of chancel, Norman nave, and north aisle having the mortuary chapel as a continuation of it. A spire of later date has been built on the Norman tower. The church has frequently been restored, but portions of the original structure still remain, such as part of the tower, and in the south wall a small and interesting Norman doorway, near to which lies the old font. Robert de Lacy appears to have appropriated this church to the Priory and Convent of St. John at Pontefract, as the first recorded patrons are the Priors of that place. In their patronage it continued to the dissolution of the monasteries, and has since followed the fortunes of the Manor of Ledstone, having probably been purchased by the Withams from the crown, as we find one of that family presenting to it in the year 1570.

The church is valued in Pope Nicholas' Taxation at £10, and the vicarage at £16 13s. 4d.; in the King's Book, 1680, at £7 2s. 10d., and in the

Parliamentary Survey at £17 per annum, Synodals 5s., Procurations 7s. 6d. The living was augmented in 1721, and further augmented in 1739 under the will of Lady Betty Hastings.

The Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV. has been frequently referred to in this work; perhaps it would be in place here to state that this taxation was made about the year 1292, and was a grant from the Pope to King Edward the First, of a full tenth of the possessions of the church, to defray the expense of an expedition to the Holy Land. A new taxation was made in 1318, in which many of the assessments are reduced on account of the devastation resulting from the invasion of the Scots, and thus the record enables us to ascertain the extent of those incursions. The taxation of Pope Nicholas is a very important document, because all the taxes, to the King as well as to the Pope, were regulated by it, until the Survey of the 26th year of King Henry the Eighth.

Synodals are tributes in money paid by the clergy to the Bishop or Archdeacon at the Easter Visitation.

Charities Sir John Lewis Hospital, by will 1670. Six single men and five single women, upwards of sixty years of age. They receive 22s. per calendar month, and also coals and certain clothing. Income, rent of 49 a. 1 r. 31 p. of land; Rent-charge, £30 on estate at Allerton Bywater; annual payment from Lady Elizabeth Hastings' General Charity, £75; and dividends on £400 consols. Dole, 10s.

Charities

per annum in bread, on Good Friday. £1 rent-charge on estate at Scholes.

Rev. Walter Sellon's Charity:—Interest on £80 8s. 11d., red., consols, to be laid out by the vicar in necessities for the sick poor.

Lady Betty Hastings' Charities:—£3 per annum for sacramental bread and wine. Other small charities amounting to £92 14s. 9d., red., consols, interest thereon distributed among the poor annually by the vicar and churchwardens.

Charity School:—For not less than 20 girls, preferring orphans; ditto for 20 boys; maintained by Lady E. Hastings' Trust. To the mistress of the school when superannuated, a retiring pension; to the master of the Boys' School, for reading prayers in St. John's Hospital 40s. per annum, and 40s. more for examining the children after evening service; to the vicar, for books for the Boys' School £3 per annum; to the repairs of the church £5 every twenty years.

Vicar's Widow's Pension, founded by Lady Betty Hastings:—Rent of a house and 29 a. 3 r. 10 p. of land, payable to the widow of the incumbent of Ledsham during her widowhood. When no widow living, the vicar for the time being to receive the rent.—See Taylor's "*Ecclasiæ Leodienses*."

The Rev. John Wesley, during his preaching tours, paid one visit to Ledstone. We take the following extract from his Journals:—

"Monday, 13th July, 1772. I preached in Ledstone (Ledsham) Church, and spoke as plainly and closely as I

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could, but it seemed to be heathen Greek to the congregation."

Eleven years previously he had paid a visit to Kippax, and interested himself in obtaining information respecting the benefactions of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, of whom he speaks in high terms in his works. The following is an extract from his Journals :—

" July 12th, 1761. I rode to Kippax. Mr. Venn came a little after we were gone into the church ; Mr. Romaine read prayers, I preached on ' Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness,' and why should they who agree in this great point, fall out about smaller things."

The following is a list of the Vicars of Ledsham from 1268 to the present time :—

- 1268. Hugo de Medeley.
- 1294. Johannes de Kircroft.
- 1312. Nic. de Erghes.
- 1314. William de Wakefield.
- 1316. Adam Poletts.
- 1317. William de Beverlaco.
- 1329. Richard Thomas de Grynden (resigned).
- 1341. William Vayser.
- 1341. William de Ledesham (resigned).
- 1344. William Bryan (ob.).
- 1371. Nic. de Duffield (ob.).
- 1400. William de Morley (ob.).
- 1419. Thomas Bell (ob.).
- 1438. Thomas Malynson (resigned).
- 1442. Robert Whiteheved (ob.).
- 1447. John Hutchinson (ob.).
- 1502. John Stothley.

Vicars of Ledsham

- Thomas Lounde.
1570. Richard Shelleto (resigned).
1579. Bryan Croysdale (ob.).
1613. Thomas Greendood, B.A. (ob.).
1620. William Styles, B.A. (resigned; afterwards Vicar of Leeds).
1625. Robert Todd, B.A. (resigned).
1635. William Elmhirst, M.A. (ob.).
1638. Thomas Rawson, M.A. (resigned).
1644. Peter Birkbeck, M.A. (resigned).
1664. Daniel Pinner, M.A. (resigned).
1668. Charles Hammond, M.A. (ob.).
1719. John Benson, M.A. (ob.).
1764. Edward Ellis, B.A. (ob.).
1770. Walter Sellons (ob.).
1792. John Tattersall (resigned).
1801. Richard Paver, M.A. (ob.). (Marble tablet in the church to his memory).
1813. William Dechair Tattersall, M.A.
1820. Francis Tattersall.
1822. Christopher Benson, M.A. (resigned).
1827. Charles Medhurst, B.A. (who assumed the surname of Wheler), ob. 1877, aged 83.
1855. James Timothy Bainbridge Landon, M.A. (ob. 1890, aged 73).
1890. Richard Kemplay Snowden, M.A. (ob. 1896, aged 57).
1896. Reginald Edmund Walker, M.A. (resigned).
1901. Thomas Hugh McDougall, M.A.

The Parish Registers date from 1563, and are in an excellent state of preservation. There is an interesting entry to the effect that Thoresby, the eminent antiquarian and historian was married here, as follows:—"Radulphus Thoresby de Leedes, Mercutor et Anna Sykes de Ledsham, conjuncti

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fuerunt matrimonis vicessimo quinto die Februarii, Anno Dom. 1684."

Taylor in his "Biographia Leodienses" gives a list of longevity which includes some remarkable cases around Ledstone, the most notable being a Mrs. Sarah Elloff, of Ledstone, died February 14th, 1756, aged 114, and buried at Leeds. She retained her faculties till within a few hours of her death.

A Joanna Wailes, of Fairburn, is mentioned, who died July 27th, 1830, aged 102. On searching the registers at Ledsham to verify this notice, we found that her age is there recorded as 97.

A William Hurst, of Micklefield, farm labourer, died May 5th, 1853, aged 107; his memory was unimpaired, and he could read a newspaper without the aid of glasses up to within a few months of his death.

Mrs. Ellen Holmes, of Castleford, died on Friday, April 13th, 1855, aged 95.

Mrs. Mesban, of Kippax, died Thursday, April 6th, 1854, aged 92.

To this list we add the name of Mrs. Mary Ann Stead (a friend of the compiler of this work), who died at 2, Smawthorne, Castleford, 23rd October, 1902, in her 92nd year. This estimable old lady thus lived in the reigns of four kings and one queen. She retained her mental faculties unimpaired to the last, and we have spent many interesting hours listening to her reminiscences of the Great Reform Agitation, the Trial of Queen Caroline, the old coaching days, and the great



Ledston.
Near Castleford.

Old Church at Ledstone

changes which have come over Castleford since "George the Third was King."

Old Church at Ledstone In a former chapter we have quoted the entry of Ledstone in Domesday Book, where it is expressly stated that there was here in 1080 "a church and a priest."

The notice of a church at Ledstone and the omission of the usual mark in the Record to denote a church at Ledsham, have led some topographers to suggest that the Norman scribe had in error attached the church to the wrong place. But not only have we the entry in Domesday, but a tradition has been handed down for centuries at Ledstone, that the village once possessed a church of its own, and it is clear from the Domesday Record that it must have been a Saxon Church. Now we have documentary evidence that Ledsham Church was founded by Robert de Lacy early in the 12th century, and the older parts of the present edifice are distinctly Norman, the fabric bearing to this day the emblem of its founder in the form of the Lacy "knot," so that it is perfectly clear that the foundation of Ledsham Church was some years posterior to the compilation of the Norman Record. We have absolutely no reasons to doubt that a church did exist at Ledstone village in Saxon and Norman times, though it has long since disappeared. In corroboration of the entry in the Domesday Survey, and of the local tradition referred to, there may still be seen proofs in the many relics we have examined of carved stonework found at Ledstone.

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In the garden attached to the farmhouse occupied by Mr. Sidwell is an ancient font, or piscini, now used as a flower-vase, the carving of which has every indication of being of Saxon origin, also several relics of some ecclesiastical fabric. At the neighbouring farm may be plainly seen built into the walls of an ancient barn facing the village street, several huge corner stones, bearing traces of sculptured work, and especially a blue gray stone, being part of a Runic Cross, with the curious rope-pattern carving so familiar on Saxon antiquities. These remains point to their having formed part of some ecclesiastical fabric of very great antiquity, and may be fairly regarded as having formed parts of the old Saxon Church at Ledstone mentioned in the Domesday Record.

Some fifty years ago, attempts were made, under the supervision of an expert antiquarian, to locate the site of this church. In a field opposite the farmhouse occupied by Mr. Sidwell, excavations (the depressions of which may still be seen) were made, and at a depth of a few feet were traced the foundations of what at first sight were thought might be those of ancient cottages, but the massive character of the masonry, and the general ground-plan of the foundations, judging from the evidence of eye-witnesses with whom we have conversed, had every indication of belonging to some ecclesiastical building. Having no documentary evidence available, we can only conjecture that this spot may have been the site of the old church.

Ancient Carved Pedestal

In the garden of the above-named farmhouse stands an ancient carved pedestal, which local tradition says came from Newton Priory. After careful examination and comparison with a similar pedestal in the pleasure grounds of Ledstone Hall, we think it is probably one of the relics of the statuary with which Sir John Lewis adorned his grounds in the 17th century.

Population of the parish of Ledsham :—

		1801		1901
Ledsham	- -	220	-	340
Ledstone	- -	238	-	216
Fairburn	- -	339	-	666
Total	-	797	-	1222

CHAPTER XVIII

The Manor of Kippax The antiquity of Kippax reaches back to very remote times. The modern orthography of the name Kippax is a mere corruption, and the local pronunciation, "Kippis," comes much nearer to the original "Chepesch" of Domesday Book.

Some etymologists trace the name to the Saxon root "ceap," a market, but the generally accepted view is, that the situation of the place leads to the real origin of the name, for the village stands on a bold and elevated site, and on the highest part of the ridge, just behind the vicarage, is one of those Saxon or British mounds, constructed for the double purpose of observation and defence. Near to this there probably stood some distinguishing esch (the old Danish spelling of the word ash) tree, hence the ancient name Chepesch, later Keepash. In the documents of the Middle Ages, we find it variously spelt as Kypas, Kypash, Kippass, Kipas, Kipask, Kippis, and in these modern times, Kippax.

The old "keep" at Kippax is a silent but unmistakable witness to the great antiquity of the place. It is of artificial construction, hollow or basin-shaped, with an elevated ridge all round the

The Manor of Kippax

summit, and round the base distinct traces of a trench. It is locally known as "the cheeny basin," which name appears to have been handed down among the natives for many centuries; some ascribe the name to its basin shape, but we are of opinion that the appellation would be originally derived from the Celtic root "chen," a ridge or elevation.

In pre-Norman times the lordship of the Manor of Kippax belonged to Earl Edwin Morcar, who was dispossessed by William the Conqueror, and afterwards slain during the revolt of the Northumbrians against the Normans. Immediately after the Conquest it was granted to Ilbert de Lacy, and included in his great barony of Pontefract. Unlike some of the neighbouring townships, Kippax does not appear to have been subinfeudated by the De Lacies, but to have been retained in their direct possession as long as they held the castle and honour of Pontefract.

Kippax At the time of the Domesday Survey, in 1086. "Chipesch and Ledestune had 18 carucates for gelt, and 10 ploughs." Kippax possessed also the "right of Soke," a privilege only granted to very important manors. "Soke" was the right to administer justice to the surrounding territory, so that some kind of a law-court would be held at Kippax as "head of the Soke." It also carried with it the liberty or privilege of tenants to be excused from certain customary burdens, as well as the exclusive privilege claimed by millers, of grinding all corn used within the manor at the

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

"Soke mills," or of being paid for the same as if actually ground there. Certain fields at Kippax are still known as the "Soke Closes." There was within this manor and Berewic in the Conqueror's time, three churches and three priests, yet only Kippax, Ledstone, and Barwick-in-Elmete are mentioned as "vills," for Garforth, to which the mark of a church is annexed, was merely entered in Domesday Book as "in the soke of Chipesch." It seems clear, therefore, as we have previously pointed out, that there was at that time a church at Ledstone village, which was allowed at a later period, for some reason now forgotten, to fall into decay and ruin, and the village to become attached to the Norman church founded at Ledsham by Robert de Lacy.

About 1198 Roger de Lacy was deprived of the castle and honour of Pontefract by Richard the First, who appears to have bestowed the Manor of Kippax upon Roger de Quincey, Earl of Winchester. King John restored the manor to Edmund de Lacy, and the grant is witnessed by Richard, Earl of Cornwall.

At the time of his death, about 1240, Edmund de Lacy possessed among others the castle and honour of Pontefract, the Manors of Castleford, Leeds, Rothwell, Woodlesford, Kippax and Allerton. His successor, Henry de Lacy, who afterwards became Regent of England, and probably the greatest and most opulent man in the realm, left an only surviving child, Alice, who was married to

The Manor of Kippax

Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, and grandson of Henry the Third. This Thomas of Lancaster, by right of his wife, received the Pontefract estates, and with them the Manor of Kippax. After the tragic death of this Earl under Edward the Second, the "rectory of Kypas" was in the hands of Thomas de Corbrig, who seems to have been a victim to the Earl's necessities, for in 1321 he complains to the King "that Roger Noefmarch and John Hannsard, with other malcontents and disturbers of the King's peace, took from him two horses of the value of 100s., and six score and three sheep, and drove them by force of arms to John de Mowbray, who was engaged with Lancaster in the late rebellion against the De Spencers." As to whether the Rev. Thomas de Corbrig received any compensation for his loss, history is silent.

After the execution of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, at Pontefract, the confiscated estates ultimately passed to his brother Henry, Earl of Lincoln, who died possessed of the Manors of "Kypas, Ledstune, and Ollertune, and a piscary (fishery) in the ryver Ayre." This Earl, who had been raised to the dignity of Duke of Lancaster, left the estates to his daughter, Blanche, who was married to John o' Gaunt, the third son of Edward the Third.

In the 35th Edward III. 1361 the King assigned to him the "Castle of Pontefract, the Manors of Altofts, Berewyk, Kypas, Ollertune, Knottingley with its mill, and many other manors, also the bailiwicks of Osgodcross and Skyrac." It was thus

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that John o' Gaunt, "time-honoured Lancaster," became connected with this district, and the Lancastrian influence a century later was able to gather around their standard most of the knightly families of south Yorkshire.

The Manor of Kippax during the early Stuart Period formed part of Queen Anne's jointure. On the 11th October, 17th James I. 1620, the King "granted all the honour of Pontefract in Countie Ebor and other counties wheresoever that honour extendeth, being the houses, castles, manors, villages, hamlets, forests, chases, parks, granges, farm-rents being parcel, or member, or reputed members of the said honour of Pontefract, belonging as heretofore specified, with the appurtenances, in the said Countie Ebor, and all those several bailiwicks of Pontefract, and all those manors of Tanshelf, Ackworth, Elmshall, Knottingley, in the Wapentake of Osgodcross, to Anne of Denmark, Consort of James the First."

Local In the assessment of taxes made in 1334
Names by Edward the Third, we come across a
and John of Roche, who paid sixpence; the
Families name still survives in Kippax; also a Thomas Coco, perhaps an ancestor of a William Crococke, buried here in 1670, and described in the parish registers as "Magister Carbonariarum," probably owner of one of those ancient coal-pits, for a tithe on coal is mentioned at Kippax as early as 1410.

"William at the Town End" is assessed at

Local Names and Families

3s. 1d.; may not this man be the ancestor of the Townends, a well-known Kippax name? In 1574 we first come across the Gray family in the registers, the last entry being a "William Gray, buried 5th October, 1708." His son Edward was born at Kippax, and was twice mayor of Leeds, viz: in 1749 and 1768.

The Bayldon family, a branch of the Bayldons of Baildon, near Guiseley, settled in Kippax Manor House during the reign of Elizabeth. During the Civil Wars of the 17th century they were active adherents of the Parliamentary party. Sir Francis Bayldon was heavily fined for this, when the Restoration came about. From this family the manor passed by purchase to Sir William Slingsby. There are five entries in the parish registers to this family, three of whom are described as "bearer of arms." The tombstones relating to the Slingsbys stand just opposite the church porch, but the inscriptions are now completely obliterated. For an account of Sir Henry Slingsby, of Kippax, son of Sir William Slingsby, of Kippax, &c., who discovered the Sulphur and Chalybeate springs in Harrogate, see "Yorkshire Worthies," by Walter Thornbury, 1868.

From Sir Francis Slingsby the manor passed to the Medhursts, whose descendant is still lord of the manor. Their tomb over the family vault is the most conspicuous object in the churchyard of Kippax. In a former chapter we have shewn that the Medhursts intermarried with the Hastings of

Ledstone Hall, from whom the present owner of Ledstone is descended. Kippax old hall was purchased by the late Alderman Breffit, of Castleford, and demolished in 1876, and the present hall erected near the site.

Kippax Park Kippax Park was in the possession also of Earl Edwin Morcar in pre-Norman times. He was dispossessed by the Conqueror, and the estate was given to Ilbert de Lacy. It remained in the hands of the De Lacies until 1310, when it passed by marriage to the princes of the House of Lancaster, who preserved it as a royal hunting-ground, for we find that it had a provost, or park-keeper, who drew monies from Pontefract Castle to meet the expenses of his office. In Tudor times it was acquired by Sir John Bland, Knt., who originally founded parts of the present mansion (see illustration). The fabric was much enlarged about the latter end of the 17th century, and many additions have been subsequently made. The principal front, including the offices, now extends some 600 feet in length, and the whole is built of yellow stone. Gough, in his "Additions to Camden," describes the hall with his usual accuracy. He tells us that "it is pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and sheltered on the north by higher grounds. The park is well stocked with a particular set of black deer. Behind the house, in a garden, is an extraordinary good echo."

The Bland Family The family of Bland was anciently seated at Bland's Gill, in the North



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KIPPAX PARK

The Bland Family

Riding, a younger son of which house was Robert Bland, of Leeming, near Northallerton, whose posterity continued the principal line. Robert Bland was the father of Richard Bland, of Great Leeming, whose eldest son, Thomas Bland, settled at Kippax Park in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, under whom and her successor, James the First, he faithfully discharged several offices and employments. He married Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas Estoft, of Redness, in Yorkshire, who brought him a good estate, as well as alliances in blood, being descended from many ancient families of quality in the county of York. This is evident from her family quarterings, thus marshalled:—Ward, Hotham, Waterton, Mowbray, Beyke, Wroughton. This Sir Thomas Bland, Knt., died 26th December, 1612, and was buried at St. George's, London. His successor, Sir Thomas Bland, married Catherine, eldest daughter of John, Lord Savile. By this union he was father of the Sir Thomas Bland, Knt., who bore a part in several brave actions performed by the Royalists in the great Civil War, being major of horse, and one of the Yorkshire gentlemen who seized the Castle of Pontefract for the King, and afterwards defended it so well. He is stated on good authority to have been amongst those who made the remarkable sortie from the Pontefract Garrison to Doncaster, when the Parliamentary ex-governor of the castle, Rainsborough, was slain. His eldest son, Thomas Bland, having been likewise active in the service of his king, was, in considera-

tion of his own and his father's loyalty and services, advanced to the degree of a baronet, and after having suffered much in his fortune by sequestrations and compositions under the Commonwealth, died in 1657, leaving issue by Rosamond, (daughter of Francis Neville, of Chevet, in Yorkshire), Sir Francis Bland, Bart., who married Jane, daughter of Sir William Lowther, Knt., of Great Preston. Sir Francis was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Bland, Bart., who died young, leaving no issue, when the estates devolved to his uncle, Sir John Bland, Bart., who, dying in 1715 was succeeded by his son, Sir John Bland, Bart. He went in the retinue of the Bishop of London, and Her Majesty Queen Anne's Plenipotentiary to the famous Congress of Utrecht during the lifetime of his father, and was afterwards M.P. for the County Palatine of Lancaster. He died in 1743, leaving two sons, Sir John Bland, Bart., who died in France by his own hand in 1755, and Sir Hungerford Bland, who died a bachelor in 1756, the title thus becoming extinct.

The estate descended jointly to his two surviving sisters, Anne and Elizabeth, who both dying unmarried, devised it to their relative, Thomas Davison, Esq., son of Thomas Davison, Esq., of Blackistop, Co. Durham, who had married a daughter of Sir John Bland, grandfather of the two sisters who had jointly possessed the estates.

This Thomas Davison, on succeeding to the estates, assumed the surname of Bland. He married

The Bland Family

in 1776, Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Godfrey Meynell, of Yeldersley, Co. Derbyshire, and died 27th April, 1794, when the estate descended to his son, Thomas Davison Bland, Esq., who in 1812 married Apollonia, daughter of Charles Philip, Lord Stourton. At his death the estates descended to his son, the late Thomas Davison Bland, Esq., who died in 1885, and was succeeded by the present owner, John Davison Bland, Esq. The Duke of Gloucester visited Kippax Park in 1823, and stood sponsor to the twelfth child of Thomas Davison Bland, Esq.

With regard to the red hand on the Bland coat-of-arms we insert the following:—

“The Order of Baronets, or Hereditary Knighthood, was founded by King James I. in May, 1611, for the purpose of obtaining assistance in subjugating and settling the Province of Ulster in Ireland. The Province having become vested in the Crown by the attainder of its previous owners, the King conferred grants of land upon those who would maintain a body of thirty soldiers there for three years. The person who undertook this charge was created a baronet. He was allowed (*inter alia*) to add to his family arms those of the Province, commonly called the ‘Bloody Hand’; and the sovereign undertook that no dignity should ever be created to intervene between baronets and the peerage. At its first institution the order was limited to two hundred, but now it contains nearly six times that number. The creation was by

letters patent, and it was essential for the claimant to be of honourable descent, and to have an estate of £1,000 a year in land. Subsequently a commission was established under the Great Seal, to confer the dignity, but the commission lasted for a very short time, and the ancient form of letters patent was again reverted to."—*See Vinder in the "Law Magazine and Review."*

A pedigree of the Bland family is given on the opposite page.

The Bland Pedigree.

Robert Bland, Esq., of Great Leeming

Richard Bland, Esq., of Great Leeming

Sir Thomas Bland, Knt. = Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Eltoft, Esq., of Redness, Yorks.

Sir Thomas Bland, Knt., who defended Pontefract Castle, 1645-6

Sir Thomas Bland, Bart. = Rosamond, daughter of Francis Neville, of Chevet

Sir Francis Bland, Bart. = Jane, daughter of Sir William Lowther, Knt., of Great Preston

Sir Thomas Bland, Bart., who died young

Sir John Bland, Bart., died 1715

Sir John Bland, Bart., = Lady Frances Finch, daughter of Hemeage, Earl of Aylesford

Elizabeth, = Thomas Davison, Esq., of Blakestop, Durham

Sir John Bland, Bart., shot himself, 1755

Sir Hungerford Bland, Bart., died unmarried 1756, when the title became extinct

Anne and Elizabeth } Co-heiresses, who both died unmarried

Thomas Davison, Esq., = Anne, assumed the surname of Bland on succeeding to the estates. Died 1794 daughter of Godfrey Meynell, of Yeldersley, Derbyshire

Thomas Davison Bland, Esq. = Apollonia, daughter of Charles Philip, Lord Stourton born 1783, died 1847

Thomas Davison Bland, Esq. = Sophy Caroline, daughter of John Madock, Esq. born 1812, died 1885

John Davison Bland, Esq., the present owner of Kippax Park

Kippax Church The origin of Kippax Church is buried in obscurity. It was evidently in Saxon times, and probably even in Roman times, of considerable importance, and might well have been an early ecclesiastical centre. The fabric is an interesting specimen of the simple construction which during Saxon times was almost universal, consisting of tower, nave and chancel. It has been frequently restored, and contains some good examples of Norman, Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular architecture.

If inanimate walls could be made to speak, what an account of stirring times might these walls of the church lay before us! The south wall, with the exception of the windows, is probably identical with that which existed during the lordship of Earl Edwin Morcar. The herring-bone masonry of the north wall has been much interfered with, the upper portion having in Norman times been adorned with the high Norman windows, still to be seen there, with their characteristic deep splays, and below is still a portion of the arch of a Norman doorway, which has long since been walled in. In three places below these Norman windows the Medhurst family pulled out some of the herring-bone masonry, and inserted three windows in order to secure additional light over their family pews. These latter windows have since been walled in, as may be plainly seen. The whole of the tower was originally of herring-bone masonry, but owing to the crumbling of the upper portion, it was



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Kippax Church

restored some ten years ago, so that now only about half of the tower is of Saxon or Early Norman origin. There was attached to this church formerly a chantry, value £5 17s. od., per annum, but it has now disappeared.

The church appears to have been built of two kinds of stone—local limestone and sandstone. The limestone has a curious red appearance, as though having been burnt. Some antiquarians have endeavoured to account for this by assuming that the church had in all probability been burnt down by the invading Danes, who are known to have ravaged this district in the 10th century, and destroyed very many of the churches.

Ancient Cross found at Kippax Church The late Mr. Holmes, of Pontefract, some years ago made an interesting discovery at Kippax Church. He found embedded in the clock chamber of the tower, and used as a step passing on to the roof, a very remarkable stone, a relic of early Christianity in Yorkshire, and suggests that it is the shaft of an old Saxon cross. As embedded in the tower, the stone appeared to be a truncated pyramid, 2 feet 3 inches long, with a base of about 15 inches, and an apex of 11 inches. The face of the stone is occupied by a carved human figure about 12 inches in length, erect, with the legs separated, and having the arms hanging downwards at an angle of about 40 degrees. It wears a Saxon tunic, and might at first sight be taken to represent the crucifixion. The stone has been carefully taken

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

down and placed with several other relics of antiquity in the vestry. A photograph of this stone has been submitted to an eminent antiquarian expert, who is of opinion that, judging from the indications of the carved figures of animals, the stone may have had a pagan origin, and is probably dedicated to the god Thor, and this may account for it having been at a later period placed in the tower to be out of sight. A still more eminent authority on ecclesiastical antiquities, Dr. Browne, Bishop of Bristol, went over to Kippax twice to see it, when staying with the late Canon Landon at Ledsham Vicarage. After careful investigation he declares it to be part of a Runic cross, and the animal represented is a horse, which animal was carved on the memorial of a dead warrior—the horse which would carry him to a happy land. He goes on to say that there are similar stones over the burial places of ancient Scottish kings in the Island of Iona, but though he has seen most of the antiquarian relics in this country, he has only seen two other stones similar to the one at Kippax. Having been placed in the dark clock chamber, face downwards, it had remained unnoticed for many centuries until that enthusiastic antiquarian, Mr. Holmes, set his eyes upon it. Whatever its origin, it is undoubtedly one of the most ancient pieces of art workmanship we have come across in this district. The present vicar proposes to have it built into the wall of the chancel to ensure its preservation. (See illustration on opposite page.)



Runic Cross found in Kippax Church

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Interior of Kippax Church Dodsworth, who visited Kippax Church in 1620, notes that in the windows were the arms of several knightly families who fell at Towton Battle, but these windows have all disappeared. They included one of the Saviles, the escutcheon of Savile quartering Thornhill, which would probably date back to the close of the 15th century. A Thomas Savile was one of the esquires to Richard, Duke of York, who fell at Wakefield Green. That the family held certain lands and privileges at Kippax is clear from an Inquisition taken at Sherburn, 6th September, 1632 (8th Charles I.), after the death of Henry Savile, Knt., where we find the jurors stating that "the aforesaid Henry Savile died seized among divers other lands, of all the tythes growing in the parish of Kippax in ye countie of York."

The font is dated 1663, and is inscribed as follows:—

"Rev. Thomas Hunt, Vicar, Richard Barber, Robert Everingham, Vincent Pearson, and Gervase Casson, Churchwardens, Wardens of Ledstone and Great Prestone."

The much-repaired cover of the font dates further back, being apparently 16th century work.

The church possesses a double piscina, an uncommon feature in English churches. The memorial tablets relate chiefly to the Medhursts and the Blands.

On the floor of the tower there is an old tombstone to Phyllis Fether, wife of Joseph Fether, who established the Fether Charity, consisting of a dole

Interior of Kippax Church

of bread to the poor. There was formerly on the floor within the communion rails, a black marble slab, with arms and this inscription:—

“Henry Slingsby, Esq., eldest son of Henry Slingsby, Esq., married the daughter of Sir William Lowther; died 27th August, A.D. 1695, aged 58.”

An account of the church would be incomplete if no reference was made to the bells, which for 260 years have done service for the parish:—

No. 1—Merry Bell, for Weddings, inscribed “Soli Deo Gloria 1636.”

No. 2—Solemn Passing Bell, inscribed “Soli Deo Gloria 1638.”

No. 3—Burial Bell, inscribed “Fili Dei Misereri 1638.”

These bells were placed in the tower during the reign of Charles the First. The appointment of bell-ringers seems to have been made nine years before these bells were put up, as we find the following entry on the fly-leaf of the church registers:—“Ringars elected and nominat ye 31st day of January, Anno Domo 1627, by ye church maisters and clarke, whom he doth thinke fit, ye said Ringars to ringe as well for ye Pore as for ye Rich, whose names are hearunder written,—Francis Johnson, Roger Scruton, William Bywater, John Norton, and if any die, another to be chosen whom ye church maister and clarke doth think fit.”

The following “Carta Johannis de Lacy,” dated 1218, is an interesting document.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

“To all &c. Know that I John de Lacy, constable of Chester, . . . have confirmed . . . to God and St. Mary, and the church of All Saints of Pontefract . . . certain land which lies without the burying ground of the said church . . . preserving the width of the said roads next adjoining on both sides; which they had on the very day on which I commenced my journey towards the Holy Land, Jerusalem—witnessed by Roberto Gramatico, persona de Edburford (Aberford), Magistro Rogero medico, persona de Kippeis, &c, &c. Apud Damietam.”

It is of interest that this charter should have been granted at Damietta, and that John de Lacy should have the parson of Aberford and the medical parson of Kippax among those who accompanied him to the Holy War.

We give a list of the Rectors and Vicars of Kippax from 1234 to the present time. It will be seen that this list is complete with the exception of one name; the name of the vicar who held the living from 1641 to the execution of Charles the First in 1649 has been effaced. We may assume that he was a strong Royalist, and was deprived of the living or forced to resign, his place being taken by a Cromwellian vicar in the person of the Rev. Cotton Gargrave, who held the living for eleven years, in fact until after the Restoration of the Stuarts, when he was ejected. The Rev. Cotton Gargrave probably remained in the neighbourhood, as we find the following entry in the

Rectors and Vicars of Kippax

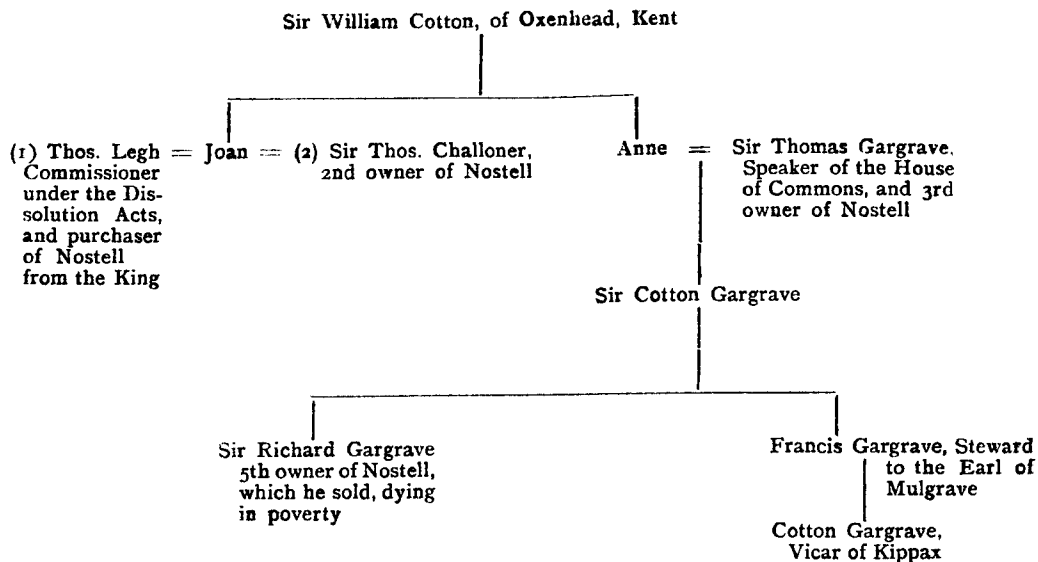
parish registers some twenty-one years later :—" *Mr. Cottonius Gargrave, Sepult March 12th, 1681.*" That this vicar was looked upon by his successors as a usurper may be inferred from the fact that two memorial slabs relating to his family had been taken out of the church and deposited in the walls of the tower, with the face and inscriptions turned inwards, in which position they were found on the restoration of the church some years ago. These slabs, the inscriptions on which are in a remarkably good state of preservation, have been removed into the vestry. Other relics preserved there include a much-damaged stone coffin of very ancient date, discovered under the floor of the nave, as well as the Saxon cross already referred to.

- 1234, Dominus Nicholaus.
- 1269, Nov. 15, Dominus Adam de Vavassour.
- 1302, May 2, Dominus Thomas de Malton, died.
Dominus Thomas de Corbrig (date obliterated).
- 1328, May 14, Dominus William de Wakefield, resigned.
- 1343, Nov. 10, Dominus Walter de Wodhouse, resigned.
- 1350, July 8, Dominus William de Ferriby, resigned.
- 1354, Feb. 26, Dominus Thomas Helwell, resigned.
- 1370, May 18, Dominus Adam de Clareburgh.
- 1377, May 18, Dominus Thomas de Ferriby, resigned.
- 1388, Oct. 9, Dominus John de Upton.
- 1410, May 20, Dominus Robert Rilleston, resigned.
- 1412, May 16, Dominus William Sunning, resigned.
- 1426, June 20, Dominus Richard Wodall, resigned.
- 1442, Oct. 28, Dominus Richard Kyrkby, resigned.
- 1444, Feb. 28, Dominus John Balne, deceased.
- 1469, Nov. 22, Dominus William Hillum, deceased.
- 1497, May 9, Dominus George Goldsmyth, deceased.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

- 1548, May 7, Rev. James Edge, deceased.
1555, Aug. 13, Rev. Sir Thomas Jackson ("priest"), deceased.
1578, July 22, Rev. Nicholas Barrett, resigned.
1591, Rev. Robert Barber, died March 10th, 1640.
1640, Rev. Ralph Leadbeater, died June 23rd, 1641.
1641, Name not known, resigned 1649 (?)
1649, Rev. Cotton Gargrave, resigned 1660, buried March
13th, 1681, at Kippax.
1662, Dec. 17, Rev. Thomas Hunt, deceased.
1672, Feb. 3, Rev. Richard Bainbrigg, M.A., died.
1715, May 23, Rev. Roger Read, B.A.
Rev. Thomas Lowther buried Nov. 4th, 1731.
1731, Jan. 10, Rev. William Bridges, M.A., resigned.
1733, July 4, Rev. William Wood, B.A., resigned.
1758, Oct. 17, Rev. Henry Crooke, (also Vicar of Hunslet).
Rev. Edward Buckley, M.A., resigned.
1783, June 30, Rev. Miles Atkinson, B.A., died.
1811, May 1, Rev. and Hon. Archibald Cathcart, died. Also
Rector of Methley,
1841, Nov. Rev. Edward Davison Bland, M.A., died.
1883, Feb. 8, Rev. Arthur Hoste, M.A., resigned.
1896, May 5, Rev. Emill B. Smith.

The Rev. Cotton Gargrave, the Vicar of Kippax during the Commonwealth, was a grandson of Sir Cotton Gargrave, of Nostell, by Agnes, his second wife, daughter of Thomas Waterton, of Walton. The following is the line :—



When Cotton Gargrave was made Vicar of Kippax, there was practically no ecclesiastical authority to legalize his appointment. Archbishop Williams had left his diocese, and was in Wales, while there was no competent delegate or commissioner. Had the see been vacant by death or legal resignation, the Dean and Chapter could have acted, and legal induction been made, the date of which would have been on record. But in the absence of the Archbishop, no appointment, though otherwise legally made, could be confirmed, and even the exact date on which this vicar took charge of the living has not been ascertained. The following entries with regard to Mr. Gargrave's family are, however, on the church books:—

1653 Averill Gargrave, the daughter of Mr. Cotton Gargrave, minister, Buried the 12th day of November.

1654 Arthur Gargrave, the sonn of Mr. Cotton Gargrave, Vicar of Kippax. Baptised the 21st day of September.

1656 Thomas Gargrave, sonne of Cotton Gargrave, minister of Kippax, was baptised the 28th day of Aprill.

1659 Francis Gargrave, sonne of Cotton Gargrave, minister of Kippax, Baptised 22nd October.

1660. Francisus Gargrave, filius Cottoni Gargrave, verbi divini minister sepultus est tertio die January de eodem morbo obijt quo mea dulcissima Everilda (my sweetest Everilda). [The last three words is a reference by William Freeman, school-

The Gargrave Family

master and registrar, to his own daughter, Everilda, who had died of smallpox in the previous month.]

1661-2. Everata Gargrave, wife of Cotton Gargrave, minister, buried the 24th of February.

It may be noticed that in one only of these entries made by the official registrar is Mr. Gargrave called "vicar." In each of the others he was called "minister" only. It is, however, certain, from what follows, that he considered himself vicar.

Of the first and last-named Averill and Everata (properly Everilda), the tombstones are still in existence. The first is a thick, uncouth slab, of very coarse workmanship, and the inscription, which is in very rough characters, supplies the date of the child's birth, which is absent from the registers, while on the other hand, the day of the month of her burial, when less than six months old, having been defaced from the stone, can be obtained from the church register.

The inscription is as follows:—

"Averill Gargrave, daughter of Cotton Gargrave,
Vicar of this Church was borne May ye 22 and buried
the [] 1653."

Buried in the wall of the tower, from which it was taken during the restoration of the church some years ago, was the gravestone of the above child's mother. This latter stone is a great contrast to that of the child's, which is of rough limestone, inelegant workmanship, and commonplace English, with no attempt at beauty in material or

workmanship, in language or diction; whereas the other is of polished sandstone, elegantly worked, and with a Latin inscription of some considerable pretence to classicality. Unfortunately, however, when the workmen came upon the stone, the inscription being on the inner side, their first efforts were directed to detach it from its position piecemeal, and it was only when large portions had been broken away that it was discovered that it bore an inscription, some of which had consequently perished. The interesting point is, that here, in February, 1622, Mr. Gargrave calls himself "nuper" (late) Vicar, although the "ejection" did not take place till the following August; but it is possible that the stone was not erected for months after the burial. It is remarkable that while these tombstones, in each case, bear the name of Averill, the several entries in the church books record the name as Everata, which is, however, by the same hand as the remainder of the entry, though with a different ink, and upon an erasure. This is a singular fact, which shows that the correction was made not long after the original had been recorded, and a little investigation will show the small piece of vanity which inspired the unauthorised alteration. Five weeks afterwards was made the most pretentious entry in the whole book by this worthy schoolmaster and registrar. It relates to his own wife, and runs thus:—"1662 Everata Freeman charissima and Suavissima Coniux Guelielmi Freeman, Ludi Magistri, sepulta fuit, vicesimo octavo

The Gargrave Family

die Martij, parturiendo obiit filia, erat Thomas Wentworth de Australi Kirby, armigeri x x x Fiducia Christianorum est Resurrectio mortuorum," which may be translated "Everata Freeman, most dear and most sweet wife of William Freeman, master of school games, buried twenty-eighth day of March, died of childbirth; she was the daughter of Thomas Wentworth, of South Kirby, bearer of arms, &c., &c., &c. The confidence of the Christian is the Resurrection of the Dead." In this case, again, Everata was upon an erasure, but the last few words supply a key. The real name of this lady was Everilda, and the reference to South Kirby enables us to ascertain that, so spelt, it is on record in the parish registers there, where she appears as the sixth child of Thomas Wentworth, and as baptised "Everilda," on June 29th, 1629. Her grandfather, William Wentworth, was then still alive, for we find a later entry to the effect that he was "buried in the great snow," January 23rd, 1634.

Everilda (or Averill), was also, by a coincidence, the Christian name of the Vicar's wife. What could have possessed the schoolmaster who had charge of the registers to erase these names and alter both to Everata, it is difficult to see, as is, indeed, the meaning he could have attached to the name so changed. As we shall show later, he evidently took some pride in his position as registrar, and made pretty free use of his own individuality in the entries he was called upon to make.

Another famous Vicar of Kippax, the Rev. Miles Atkinson, B.A., who held the living from 1783 to 1811, was born at Ledsham, September 28th, 1741, and was in his time a man of some reputation as a preacher and a scholar. After serving as a curate at the Parish Church of Leeds, he was in 1764 licensed to the head-mastership of Drighlington Grammar School, and in 1769 was nominated to the lectureship of Leeds Parish Church, where his eloquence was such that he rarely drew a less congregation than three thousand persons. It was owing principally to his exertions that Sunday Schools were established in Leeds. Removing to Kippax in 1783, he became distinguished for his ministerial usefulness, being ever ready to assist, either by his pen, his influence or example, in furthering any measure which tended to promote the common welfare of his parish and the nation, the efficacy of the laws, and the happiness of his fellow-subjects. Few men were more steady and active than he, in times peculiarly pregnant with insurrection and sedition. He died at Kippax, aged 70, on the 6th of February, 1811, and was interred in St. Paul's Church, Leeds, amidst the tears and sighs of a numerous and affectionate people. (*See Taylor's "Leeds Worthies," and for his portrait and pedigree see Whitaker's Edition of Thoresby*).

The George Goldsmith Charity was founded in 1497 by a Vicar of Kippax who held the living for the long period of 51 years (1497 to 1548). This charity

The George Goldsmith Charity

consisted of a school and certain copyhold cottages and lands at Kippax, for the use and enjoyment of a schoolmaster. Eight children, nominated by the trustees, were taught as free scholars, and though the Free School of Kippax no longer exists, the charity, which was placed upon a new foundation by the Charity Commissioners in 1891, is still doing work of an educational character in the parish.

The following is a copy of the schedule showing the present sources of the income:—

“In the matter of the Free School in the parish of Kippax in the West Riding of the County of York, founded by George Goldsmith, in the reign of King Henry the Eighth; and in the matter of the Endowed School Act, 1869, and Amending Acts:—

1. Freehold and copyhold land known as Lady Closes and Hollings in the parish of Kippax in the County of York let to Frank Watkinson at a yearly rent of £13. Acreage 8 a. 1 r. 16 p.

2. Two houses, copyhold, in High Street in Kippax aforesaid let to William Green and John Braim at yearly rents of £6 and £5 respectively.

3. Two cottages, carpenter's shop and premises, copyhold, in Well Lane in Kippax aforesaid let to John Varley at a yearly rent of £12.

4. £234 9s. 3d. Two and three-quarters per cent. Consolidated Stock in the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division), to an account entitled 'Ex-parte the North Eastern Railway Company. In the matter of the Leeds, Castleford and Ponte-

fract Junction Railway Act 1873 in respect of lands in which the Reverend Edward Davison Bland and others are interested as Trustees of the Kippax Free School and are unable to convey.'

5. £65 6s. 1d. cash in the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) to an account entitled 'Ex-parte the North Eastern Railway Company. In the matter of the Leeds, Castleford and Pontefract Junction Railway Act 1873, in respect of lands in which the Reverend Edward Davison Bland and others are interested as Trustees of the Kippax Free School and are unable to convey.'

6. £143 17s. 8d. deposited with Messrs. Leatham, Tew & Co., Bankers, Castleford.

7. All other, if any, endowment of the Foundation."

Other Duffield & Scholes' Dole, one guinea per
Charities annum to poor widows.

Joseph Fether's gift, in 1717. £5 per annum is paid out of the poor rate (the principal sum of £100 having been expended in building a poor-house), and given in bread weekly.

George Scholes' gift in 1717. House for the poor fallen to decay. Garden let for £5 per annum. (*See Taylor's "Ecclesiae Leodienses."*)

Ancient The parish registers are in excellent pre-
Notices servation. They date from 1539 to the
of Kippax present time, with the exception of the ten years from 1643 to 1653, the period from the commencement of the great Civil War to the year when Cromwell was made Lord Protector of

Ancient Notices of Kippax

the Commonwealth. We infer that the registers were not kept during that unsettled period.

These registers contain very many quaint and interesting entries, of which the following are a sample :—

“ Singers Pew, erected 1725 at the expense of seventeen persons, total cost £38 11s. 1½d.”; then follow the names of Henry Fether and sixteen others. Persons still living will remember this Singer's pew which formerly stood under a gallery at the west end of the church.

Here is a typical churchwarden's account ;—

“ Ringars Salary 21 shillings a year.

Jan. 1. Given ringars to drink 6d.

Easter „ „ „ 2s.

For ringing on May 29 - 3s.”

1740. On the taking of Porto Bello during the war with Spain, “ Repairing bells and ale to ye ringers, and rejoicing of Admiral Vernon's success 2s. 6d.”

“ Remuneration to John Jowitt for keeping Church accounts 2s. 6d. yearly.”

“ 1674 April 13. The Lady Bland, of Kippax Park, gave to the church of Kippax a fine Damask linen Cloth for the Communion Table, with the napkin for the same at the request of R. Bambrig, Vicar.”

“ July 7th, 1708. Memorandum. Mr. William Burman then built a seat in the church of Kippax, adjoining to the north door, trespassing or injuring no man's right, having obtained leave for ye good

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

work from the present vicar, and the churchwardens for that year, and certified to the Ordinary for an Order to confirm ye same, R. Bambrig, Vicar," followed by the signatures of the churchwardens.

"June 1725 the Lady Frances Bland gave to ye church of Kippax a Common Prayer Book, to be used at ye Common Table. Thomas Lowther, Vicar."

"1648 Beheading of King Charles the First." (This is a slight error as to the date, as Charles was executed on the 30th January, 1649).

"1661 June the second, collected in the church towards the repairing of Pontefract old Church, the summe of ten shillings and nyne pence."

The Parliament deposed many of the Rectors and Vicars who opposed the Commonwealth, and offices were filled and marriages solemnized by magistrates, instead of the clergy, thus we find in the Kippax registers such entries as these:—

"William Norton, chosen by inhabitants of the parish, according to the direction in Act of 24th August 1653, to be Parish Registrar this 3rd day of November 1653, by me Lawrence Parsons, one of the Justices of Peace for the West Riding."

"September 5th, 1657, John Burvill and Mary Making married by Matthew Frank J.P."

"1655 Dec. 29. William Freeman appointed Registrar by John Wade J.P." This William Freeman appears to have been the schoolmaster; all his entries in the registers are exceedingly neat, and carefully engrossed; he was evidently a man of some learning, as many of his entries are made in

Ancient Notices of Kippax

both Greek and Latin, and he often introduces remarks of his own after the entry, for example:—
“Elizabeth Freeman, daughter of William Freeman, Schoolmaster, was buried the 21st day of January 1657. *My sweet Betty.*”

“Everata Freeman, daughter of William Freeman,” (here follows in Greek characters) “teacher of the little children, was buried the third day of December 1660—*de puxtulis sive var is obijt, suavissima mia Eve*” (my sweetest Eve).

“Jedidiah Freeman, sonne of William, Schoolmaster, borne ye 9th day of May 1657, betwixt the hours of 11 and 12 in the forenoon, baptised ye 27th day of May, 1657.”

There is an interesting entry under date 1689 as follows:—“The custom of burying in woollen began.” The Act for burying in woollen was passed by the Parliament of 30 Charles II. “For the encouragement of the woollen manufacture, and prevention of the exportation of money, for the importing of linen, it is enacted that no corpse of any person shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything whatsoever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver &c., in any stuff or thing other than what is made of sheep’s wool only, on pain of Five Pounds.”

Two witnesses were required to certify on oath, immediately after any funeral ceremony took place, that the deceased person was buried in woollen. Entries in our parish registers referring to this Act are not infrequent. Generally, the person who

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

"laid out" the body, and a relative, took the prescribed oath. We have in our possession a copy of the printed certificate which it was necessary to sign before a Justice of the Peace, a Mayor, &c., &c. This Act was repealed in 1814.

Allerton By an Order of Council dated 1863,
Bywater Allerton Bywater parish was formed
Parish from the parish of Kippax, and the foundation-stone of a new church was laid 31st August, 1863. The first curate-in-charge was the Rev. E. Winterbottom, B.A., who in 1867 was licensed to the perpetual curacy constituted by an Order of Council on the nomination of the Rev. Edward Davison Bland, M.A., as Vicar of Kippax.

The following is a list of the Vicars of Allerton Bywater:—

1863, E. Winterbottom, B.A. (resigned).

1874, Alexander Blair, B.A. (resigned). Buried at Allerton 1902.

1891, Joseph Holden Stallard, M.A. (resigned).

1902, William Langley Robbins (resigned).

1903, Arthur Llewelyn Curry, M.A.

Population of the parish of Kippax:—

In 1801 - 1523.

In 1901 - 3243 (excluding Allerton in 1901).

Population of the parish of Allerton Bywater:—

In 1901 - 3516.



greenwood@yorkshireancestors.com METHLEY CHURCH

CHAPTER XIX.

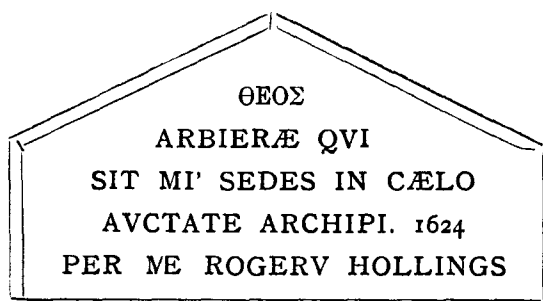
Methley Church About three miles north-west of Castleford stands Methley Park, the stately residence of the Saviles, a family who took an active part in the Civil Wars of the 17th century, and an important part also in West Riding politics during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The most interesting edifice in Methley, however, is its fine old parish church, one of the most picturesque and interesting ecclesiastical buildings in this neighbourhood. The benefice is a rectory and valued in the Liber regis at £25 8s. 11d. (1680). As we enter the church and look around, we are reminded of some lines from Wordsworth:—

"And marble monuments were here display'd
Thronging the walls; and on the floor beneath
Sepulchral stones appeared, with emblems graven,
And foot-worn epitaphs; and some with small
And shining effigies of brass inlaid."

There was a church at Methley in pre-Norman times, to which special reference is made in the Domesday Record. The oldest portions of the present edifice appear to date back to Saxon or early Norman times. It is dedicated to that royal saint, King Oswald, whose monument may

still be seen, built into the wall over the fine oaken lectern. It represents the figure of a venerable man in robes, with a sceptre and a crown, and though considerably decayed it is still in good preservation when its great antiquity is considered.

The chief feature in the interior is the Waterton Chantry, founded and endowed by Sir Robert Waterton in 1424. In the aisle wall is a small piscina. On the north wall of the nave is a triangular board, bearing the following curious inscription:—



The reason why Roger Hollings published his aspiration towards a seat in heaven in this quaint form is stated to have been that he placed seats in the church under faculty from the Archbishop. His name occurs in the church records, as registering daughters in 1621 and 1623, and we find a Roger Hollings mentioned as steward of Newlands from 1625 to 1644. In the Waterton Chantry are three massive altar tombs. The first, under an elaborately decorated canopy standing between chancel and chantry, is the Waterton Monument,

The Waterton Chantry

which Dr. Whitaker illustrates and describes very minutely in his "Loidis and Elmete." The fine alabaster effigies represent Sir Robert Waterton and Cicely, his wife, daughter and heiress of Robert Fleming, of Woodhall, in Stanley. The knight's figure is shown as clad in armour, collar round the neck, and a jewelled girdle round his surcoat. The large-featured face, with the curling beard and moustache is very striking. No inscription is now on the tomb, though the sides are ornamented with canopies inclosing figures, and shields bearing the knight's arms impaling those of his wife.

By the south wall stands a fine monument in memory of Sir Lionel, Sixth Baron Welles, who fell at Towton Battle in 1641, and of his wife, Joan or Cicely Waterton. Lord Welles is represented as a stalwart knight, with bold features, feet resting on a lion, the crest of the Welles' family, chain about his neck, an embroidered belt, the garter with motto on the left leg, and wearing a surcoat of his arms. Lady Welles is represented with a mitred head-dress, chain and mantle, with two little dogs at her feet. The sides of the tomb bear the arms of Welles and Waterton.

Lying in recesses under the north and south walls respectively are two very ancient stone effigies; over one is this inscription: "Servum Tuum Nobis ignotum Domine Custodi mcccci" and over the other: "Rectoris Ignoti effigiem successor hic Poni Curavit mcccci." These effigies formerly stood in the north doorway, but when the church

was restored a few years ago the rector had them removed to their present position in order to ensure their preservation. On the floor in front of the chantry are two very old tombstones; the inscriptions are completely obliterated, but judging from the huge, elaborately carved crosses, they are memorials of some ancient ecclesiastics. On the roof of the chantry may be seen the arms of Clifford, France and England, Welles, Fleming, Welles impaling Waterton, Waterton, Waterton impaling Clifford and others.

Hanging from the walls are old helmets, a dagger, ragged and torn surcoats and banners, each possessing a history if we could only find the records of them. The church is rich in memorials of the Savile family. The large altar tomb in the middle of the chantry bears three effigies; first, Sir John Savile, Knt., who died 1606, represented in his robes, with college cap on his head; another of his wife, Jane, and the third of their son, Sir Henry Savile, the first Baronet, who died in 1663. An artistic piece of sculpture by Westmacott is a memorial of Sarah, Dowager Countess of Mexborough, who died in 1821 in her 80th year, and another beautifully-executed statue by Wilton is to the memory of the First Earl of Mexborough, opposite to which stands a fine marble monument to the memory of the first Earl's father and mother, Charles and Aletheia, bearing effigies of both, and inscribed with the following elaborate epitaph:—

Memorial Tablets and Windows

"He was descended from an illustrious family in the county, whose antiquity cannot be traced, distinguished in its several branches by persons of great abilities and eminence. He was the fifth in a lineal descent from that wealthy man and great Honour of the Law, Sir John Savile of this place, Knt., one of the Barons of Exchequer in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First, whose eldest son Henry was advanced to the dignity of a Baronet in 1611, but died without issue, and whose brother, Sir Henry Savile, Knt., Provost of Eaton, will ever be remembered as an ornament to learning, to his family and to his country."

Close to this is a wall tablet to the memory of John, the Second Earl, who died in 1830. On the walls of the chancel are memorial tablets to three rectors of this parish, Gilbert Atkinson, died 1709, George Goodwin, died 1750, and the Honourable Hamilton Cathcart, son of the 9th Earl of Cathcart, who was not only Rector of Methley, but also Vicar of Kippax and Prebend of York.

The north and south windows are most of them decorated, the stained glass being memorials to the Saviles, Hollings, and others. One beautiful window is dedicated to the memory of Rachel Katherine Walpole, Viscountess Pollington, the first wife of the late Earl. The east window of the chantry contains old stained glass, said to date from the time of Edward the Fourth. The figures in the lower part are said to represent Saints Paulinus, Cuthbert, Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory, Dionysius, John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Christopher, and Edmund the Martyr, King of East Anglia.

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In the nave is a fine eagle lectern, carved in oak. A silver plate affixed records that it was a gift of Mr. David Leake in 1869.

The churchyard contains many ancient tombstones, some inscribed with quaint epitaphs, and others adorned with curious rhyme. On one in memory of a young man we noted the following verse :—

" O cruel Death, that would not be denied,
To break the band that was so lately tied ;
I little thought you would have call'd so soon,
I found it night before I thought it noon."

Another, over the young wife of a John Pulleine, who must have been an ornament to her sex, reads as follows :—

" Inhumed here repose the cold remains
Of one who suffer'd Nature's sharpest pains ;
Calmly she circled life's domestic sphere
With prudent manners and a heart sincere ;
Esteemed by all, approv'd by those of sense
Who know to estimate Intelligence ;
Go, pensive Reader, emulate her ways,
And act so wisely as to merit praise."

The parish registers of Methley date from June, 1560. Among the entries is one under date 1611, to the effect that Methley Bridge was built that year. From 1654 to 1658 we find, as at Kippax, that the marriages are entered as taking place before a Justice of the Peace.

"The Northowram Register" (edited by J. Horsfall Turner) contains the following entry :—" 1712 Mr.

Rectors of Methley

Savill of Medley (Methley) a young gentleman, heir to a vast estate fell into a Draw Well at (the) White Bear in Wakefield May 8 at night. Mr. Watson, of Cunsbrough went down by the Rope Immediately after him, helpt him up, got into the Buckett, both of 'em, but the Rope breaks as some were winding 'em up, they plunge down into the well and were both drown'd. They and many others had bin at a Cocking (Cock Fights) there 2 or 3 days that week."

A marble tablet has been recently affixed to the wall near the pulpit by the present rector, on which is inscribed a complete list of the rectors during the last seven hundred years. The following is a copy :—

Robert de Eure.	1538, Henry Mallet.
1281, William de Radeclive.	1552, Anthony Askham.
1309, Thomas de Doncaster.	1567, Otho Hunt.
1338, Robert de Imworth.	1591, Timothy Bright.
1358, Robert de Walton.	1615, Thomas Horne.
1367, John de Ledes.	1618, Hugo Ramsden.
1379, William de Hayton.	1628, Daniel Ambrose.
1396, Nicholas Daubeny.	1660, Anthony Elcock.
1400, William Turbacke.	1670, Tobias Conyers.
1407, John Colne.	1687, Gilbert Atkinson.
1421 Robert Flemyng.	1709, George Goodwin.
1451, William Lytster.	1750, John Scott.
1452, Thomas Pash.	1780, John Briggs.
1459, John Lancaster.	1804, Archibald Hamilton
1485, Thomas Brownles.	Cathcart.
1497, Thomas Medefeld.	1841, Philip Yorke Savile.
1501, Edward Basset.	1898, Henry Armstrong Hall.

Of the condition of Methley in Saxon times, some idea may be formed from the entry in Domesday Book:—"In Medelai, Osulf and Cnut had 8 carucates of land to be taxed, where five ploughs may be. Ilbert has there 17 villanes and 5 bordars with five ploughs; wood pasturable one leuga in length and one in breadth. A church is there and a priest. Value in King Edward's time 60s., now 40s."

After the Conquest it formed part of Ilbert de Lacy's barony and honour of Pontefract. According to Whitaker the Manor of Methley was granted by the De Lacies to St. Nicholas Hospital at Pontefract. The method in which it was thus conveyed is not known, but that it had been granted to that foundation is certain, since a license was granted in the reign of Henry the Fourth to the master of St. Nicholas Hospital to exchange this manor with Sir John Waterton for certain advowsons. The Watertons probably built the first manor house and made Methley the place of their residence. Sir Robert Waterton, who founded the chantry bearing his name, was one of the most prominent characters of his time. After having served under Richard the Second he became "master of the horse" to Henry the Fourth, and was one of the knights who, with Sir Thomas Rokeby, in 1408, arrested the progress of the insurrection of the Earl of Northumberland, which terminated in the defeat and death of that ambitious nobleman at the Battle of Bramham Moor. The

The Saviles

last Sir Robert Waterton, who lived in the reign of Edward the Fourth, left no issue, and his estates devolved to his sister, Lady Welles, who had four co-heiresses. One of these, named Margaret, was married to a Sir Thomas Dymoke, who in the distribution of the estates became seized of the manor in 1487. For an account of this knight see Burke's "Landed Gentry."

During the following century the Methley estates were acquired by Sir John Savile, Baron of the Exchequer in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First. It is usually understood that this Sir John Savile acquired the estates by purchase from the Dymokes. In the rolls of the neighbouring Manor of Newlands we find that from 1522 to 1543 a Sir Robert Dymoke was suitor at the Court in respect of land at Foxholes, and that from 1548 to 1586 the name of Sir Edward Dymoke appears instead, but in 1588 we find the name of John Savile, this being probably about the date when Sir John Savile became the owner of Methley.

The distinguished family of Savile has possessed patents of nobility in two of its branches prior to those of the present noble house, namely Savile, Duke of Sussex, extinguished in 1672, and Savile, Marquis of Halifax, extinguished in 1700. From a third branch sprang Sir John Savile, Knt., of Bradley Hall, in the County of York, from whom the family at Methley is descended.

When the Saviles obtained possession of Methley their mansion was often not only a place of

hospitality, but also of learning. We find a proof of this in a letter among the Strafford papers from Sir Henry Wotton to the Earl of Strafford, then Sir Thomas Wentworth, in which he informs him of the fulfilment of a promise in having borrowed for him "*Dutravius de Piscinis*," a book of rural philosophy, on which he says they had conversed at Methley. This and many other references we meet with go to show that Sir John Savile must have been a man both of knowledge and of taste.

Methley Hall The hall is an imposing building; the older portions bear the date and initials of 1593 I. S., which implies that it was erected by the Sir John Savile who first acquired the estates about 1588.

From Gough's "*Additions to Camden*," we extract the following, as descriptive of the old hall some centuries ago:—"Methley Hall stands a little to the west of the town and church of Methley. There was a fine old house built originally by Sir Robert Waterton in the reign of King Henry the Fourth, but afterwards great part of it was rebuilt in the time of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir John Savile the judge. It was moated round, and had a stone bridge over the moat to a tower in the centre of the front, where was a gateway or entrance with strong gates like a castle, and a portcullis to let down in time of danger. On the opposite side of the house was a drawbridge over the moat. The house was built like a castle round a square court. In the front were three towers; that in the middle



greenwood@yorkshireancestors.com
METHLEY HALL

Methley Hall

through which the grand entrance was, and another tower at each end of the front, in one of which was a ring of bells."

Thoresby also refers to this old hall as "a curious house at Methley, containing a celebrated long gallery, in the windows of which are painted the arms of the Yorkshire nobility as they were in Elizabeth's reign." The gallery of which Thoresby speaks has since been pulled down, and the present front built about the beginning of the 19th century.

July 13th, 1822 was completed under the superintendence of J. L. Macadam, the Leeds, Pontefract and Barnsdale turnpike road, which, passing through Methley and Glass Houghton, shortens the distance from Leeds to Doncaster by four miles. The route previously taken was by way of Garforth and Ferrybridge on the Great North Road. The cost of providing this road amounted to £13,411 17s. 6d.

Population of Methley in 1801 - 1234.

" " " " 1901 - 4271.

CHAPTER XX

Aketon Hall About two miles south-west of Castleford stands Aketon Hall (anciently Acton, Ackton, Aiken), now the residence of George Bradley, Esq., a retired Castleford solicitor.

This old mansion is of some historic interest, having been during the Plantagenet period the home of the Fetherston family. Early in the 15th century the Frosts, an ancient Normanton family, acquired the estate by marriage with the heiress of the Fetherstons, and resided here for several generations. The Frosts were a family of some distinction; one of them, Margaret, daughter of Walter Frost, married Henry Percy, third son of the Earl of Northumberland; another, Robert Frost, was chancellor to Prince Arthur, the elder son of Henry the Seventh. This Robert Frost died in 1528, and was buried at Sandal.

The Beckwiths of Aldborough intermarried with the Frost family, and thus became owners of Aketon.

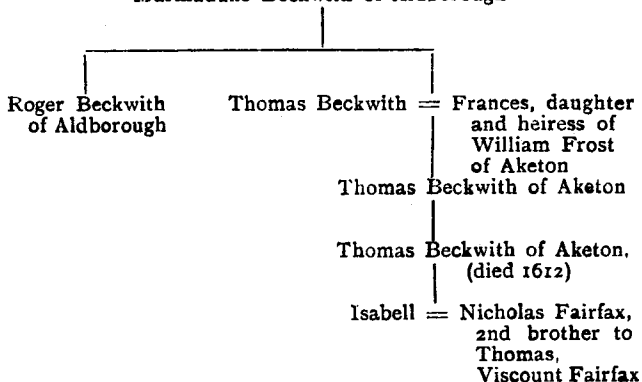
In Burke's "Extinct Baronetage," the descent of the Beckwiths is traced from the Malbies, subsequently described as "of Aldborough." The family, which was very ancient, and widely dispersed over the county, married into the best

The Beckwiths

Yorkshire houses. Thomas Beckwith, by marriage with Frances Frost, became possessed of the Featherstone and Aketon estates. His grandson left two daughters, Isabell and Barbara, the former of whom married the son of Thomas, Viscount Fairfax.

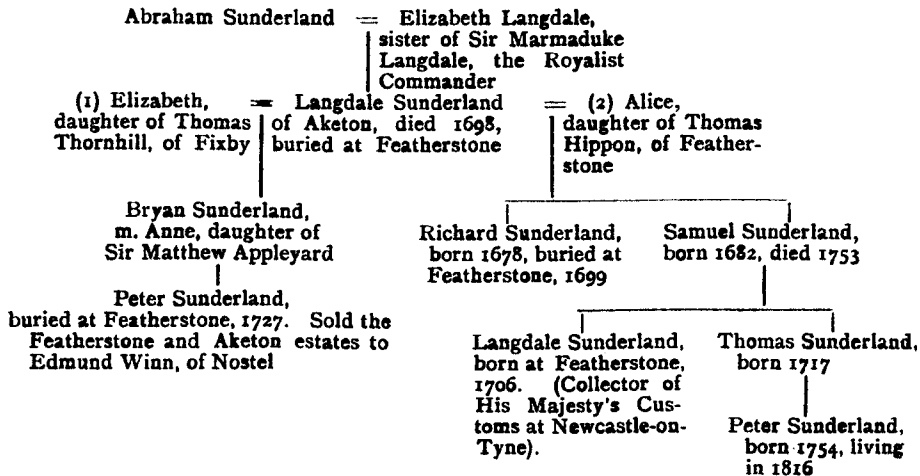
Pedigree of the Beckwiths.

Marmaduke Beckwith of Aldborough



From the Beckwiths the estates passed by purchase to Langdale Sunderland, a member of an ancient family from High Sunderland, near Halifax, whose names appear in the memorial rolls of that place yearly from 1300 forward.

Pedigree of the Sunderlands.



Langdale Sunderland

Langdale Sunderland was a nephew of Sir Marmaduke Langdale, the Royalist commander during the Civil Wars (1642-9), and accompanied his uncle in most of his enterprises. He is mentioned as captain of a troop of horse at the battle of Marston Moor. During the siege of Pontefract Castle, he raised a regiment of cavalry at his own expense, which was subsequently routed at (Glass) Houghton by Fairfax in 1646. He is said to have spent £1,500 a year in the royal cause. His composition to the Commonwealth amounted to £878. He was still living at Aketon after the Restoration of Charles the Second, and survived some ten years after the Revolution of 1688. Like many others he was neglected, and his services forgotten by the Stuarts. We find that he presented himself at Dugdale's Visitation in 1665. His will is dated 12th January, 1686, and it appears from this document that he was then living at Featherstone, and his eldest son, Bryan, at Aketon Hall. He added to the endowment of the church, died in 1698, and was buried in Featherstone Church. His tombstone, which lies in front of the altar rails, bears the following inscription:—

"Here lying interred the Body of Langdale Sunderland, Esq., of Fetherstone, who departed this life the 9th day of November Anno Dom. 1698. Veritas in terris peregrina, in cœlo civis."

This epitaph was selected by Sunderland himself from Hebrews, chapter xi; the words are peculiarly

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

appropriate when regarded as expressive of the failure of his worldly contentions, making him to feel but as a stranger and a pilgrim on earth, and to desire a better country, where might be obtained the blessings which had not fallen to his lot here. Dr. Hunter, the historian of "South Yorkshire," goes out of his way to ridicule both Sunderland's principles and epitaph, but we, after tracing his career carefully, are glad to add our meed of praise to the memory of a man who sacrificed so much for those principles which he believed to be right. On the fly-leaf of the parish register of Featherstone, opposite his name, a later hand has written "The Truth for which Langdale Sunderland fought and suffered on Defence of his sovereign, Charles the First, was Religious Truth against the Fanatics so well described by Butler in his 'Hudibras':—

'When Civil Dudgeon first grew high,
And men fell out, they knew not why;
When hard words, jealousies and fears,
Set folks together by the ears,
And made them fight like mad or drunk,
For Dame Religion as for Punk;
Whose honesty they all durst swear for,
Tho' not a man of them knew wherefore,
When Gospel Trumpeter surrounded
By long-eared Rout, to battle sounded
And Pulpit, Drum Ecclesiastic
Was beat with fist instead of stick
Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling,
And out he rode a colonelling.'

Featherstone Church

His grandson, Peter Sunderland, sold the estates early in the 18th century to Edmund Winn, Esq., of Nostell. Many of the descendants of Langdale Sunderland are still to be found in England and in New Zealand in affluent circumstances.

Featherstone Church Near the old Manor House stands Featherstone Church. A Saxon church is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, at which period the manor belonged to Ilbert de Lacy, the Saxon Thane Ligwulf having been dispossessed at the Conquest. During the early Norman period, Featherstone Church had an intimate connection with two monastic communities, viz: the Augustinian Canons of Nostell, and the Cluniac Monks of Pontefract.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the associated manors of Featherstone, Purston, West Hardwick and Nostell had but two churches, the one at Featherstone and St. Oswald's at Wragby. Subsequently a church was founded at Pontefract, originally dedicated to St. Mary, afterwards enlarged about 1180 and re-dedicated to St. Giles. This church, and also the church at Featherstone, were held jointly by the canons of Nostell and the monks at Pontefract, an arrangement which evidently did not work smoothly. This joint possession was terminated by Hugh de Laval in 1123, the Pontefract monks exchanging their rights in Featherstone Church, with the canons of Nostell, for their rights to the new church at Pontefract. This exchange received the ratification and con-

firmation of the king, as witness the following royal charter, dated 1123, to be found in the Nostell Chartulary:—"Henry, king of England, to Thurstan, Archbishop of York, and to the justiciaries . . . greeting. Know that I have permitted the exchange which has been made by Thurstan the Archbishop of York, and Hugh de Laval, between the monks of St. John of Pontefract and the canons of St. Oswald; that is to say, to the said canons the church of Featherstone, with the lands and all things to that church belonging, which the aforesaid monks give to them in exchange for the half of the church of St. Mary of Pontefract, and for half of the district belonging to that church. And besides I confirm to the aforesaid monks 45 shillings rent yearly, which Hugh de Laval gives to them for the aforesaid exchange; that is to say, the church of Ledsham with its rents, and with other rents to complete those 45 shillings, and they may hold the exchange as if certainly theirs, both well and in peace and quietly. Witness, &c., &c."

At the suppression of the monasteries the patronage was given by Henry the Eighth to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

The present edifice dates from the 14th century. It is perpendicular in style and somewhat plain, notwithstanding that the walls of the tower, nave, aisle and chancel are embattled.

The interior contains many interesting memorial slabs, in addition to the one over the grave of

Memorial Slabs

Langdale Sunderland already referred to. Within the altar rails is a black marble slab, with an elaborately carved coat-of-arms, and the following inscription :—

" Here lyes the body of the Honble. Nicholas Fairfax Esq. of the Countie of Yorke sonn of Thomas, Lord Viscount Fairfax of Gilling Castle, who married Isabell one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Beckwith of Ackton in the said Countie, Esquire, and had issue one sonn and two daughters, Thomas, Katherin and Elenore. He deceased the 18th day of September 1657."

On the right is a tombstone bearing the following inscription :—

" Here lyes Interred the Body of M Hoole, widow and aunt to mary wife of George Hippon, gentleman; she deceased 9th of June 1708, aged 7 . (figure obliterated). Seopus uilx Christus."

We find from an entry in the parish registers that this George Hippon, lived at the old Manor House, and held the office of Forester under the Crown.

There are several other memorials of the Sunderlands; one slab within the altar rails inscribed :—

" Here lyeth interred Ann the wife of Mr. Thomas Sunderland of Fetherstone, who died 26th day of August 1749 in the 38th year of her age. Uxor et Mater Optima."

This would be some years after the estates had left the family.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

In front of the altar rails is another inscription as follows:—

"Here lyeth the body of the Rev. Mr. Job Garlick, Vicar of this Church, who departed this life April the 13th, 1734, Aged 28 years, at whose request his father generously contributed the sum of Two hundred Pounds, for the Augmentation of this Vicarage."

Built into the wall on the right of the altar is a marble slab inscribed:—

"Mattheus Hammerton de Purston Jaglin, Armiger (bearer of arms) obit vigesimo die Februarii, Anno Domini 1694."

On the floor opposite is a slab with a monumental brass inscribed:—

"Here lyth the body of John Hamerton Esq. of Purston, died June ye 18th 1725. Aged 42."

A bronze plate affixed to the west wall records:—

"To the glory of God and to the Memory of the Rev. Thomas Hinde and his son the Rev. Benjamin Hinde, for 64 years vicars of Featherstone from 1823 to 1887. The Clock in the Tower of the Church was placed by the efforts of the inhabitants of Featherstone and District, and was set going by Mrs. St. John Durnford on behalf of the subscribers, January 1st 1901."

The Featherstone bells are three in number, all apparently of the 15th century. One has for inscription:—

"In Multis Annis Resonet. Campana Johannis."
(May John's Bell sound for many years.)

The Font

The other two bells bear respectively, "Hanc Sancti Petri," and "Hanc S'ti Jacobi." So that Peter and James and John are assembled together in Featherstone Tower, ready at any time to call the people together to pray, to mourn, or to rejoice.

The font is a remarkable one, octagonal in shape, and three of the sides are plain while four of the others bear shields with arms. The first of the four has the single word "Baghill" over the Baghill arms, (1) Three Eagles' heads on a bend (sinister) impaling (2) Barry of Eight, charged with three annulets. The third face is inscribed "Joh'es de Baghill et Katerina uxoris," while another face has what seems to be Baghill quartering the arms of John Neville, Marquis of Montague, brother to the king-maker Earl of Warwick, who with him was slain at the battle of Barnet in 1471. A fourth face bears Ermine, a saltire; Scargill of Stapleton.

Hunter in his "Antiquarian Notes," after referring to the initials A.C. in the east window, which he claims to stand for Alwred Comyn, the Prior of Nostell, says that this font is of very much earlier date, but that it cannot be older than the 15th century is manifest from the inscriptions and quarterings. John de Baghill, a Pontefract man, who named himself from the hill which overlooks Pontefract Castle died in 1451, bequeathing as we find from his will "to the Friars Preachers of St Richard, Pontefract 6s 8d." His widow Katherine

survived him some 36 years, and by her will dated 16 August 1486, proved 4 May 1487 bequeathed 10s. to the same Friars. It is probable that the Baghills rebuilt or restored Featherstone Church, as both font and bells bear unmistakable marks of their influence.

It may be noticed in this connection that the arms of Neville are also seen in one of the east windows.

The living is valued in the King's Book (Liber regis 1680) at £5 8s. 6d.

In the churchyard is an ancient stone pillar, formerly surmounted by a sun-dial. Quaint epitaphs are a common feature on some of the tombstones. The oldest stone we found bears date 1693, and one very elaborately carved altar tomb, bears in massive figures the date 1694.

Near the church is the Jesus Hospital or Bead Houses, endowed from certain lands at Pontefract and Featherstone. The registers date from the reign of Queen Elizabeth. They are fairly well preserved, some of the entries being beautifully engrossed in coloured inks, and many are of an interesting character. We select a few specimens:—"1643 The Plague reached Fetherston," this is followed by a long list of deaths from that terrible scourge.

"1772 'Doctor' Lancelott, sonn of Abraham Woodhead of Featherston, being a seaventh sonn, baptized ye 22 June," a later hand has added "this is superstition," referring no doubt to the

Vicars of Featherstone

old saying that a seventh son would become either a doctor or a lawyer.

"1779 Baptized Charles, sonn of Mary Fox of Acton, Base-begott, ye said Mary Fox did penance publick."

"1819. April 12, Ringers for ringing the ould year out 3s."

The following is a catalogue of the Vicars of Featherstone. The parchment is much injured, some names and dates scarcely decipherable, and others completely obliterated:—

1310, Thomas de Purnum (Deaconus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1325, Robertus de Flaxton (Capellanus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

— Jacobus de Philford (Deaconus).

1332, Johannes de Burg (Capellanus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1339, Johannes de Whatton. Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1343, ——— Bernard (Capellanus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1379, ——— de Thorp (Capellanus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1402, Johnes de Coles (Priest). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1430, William Wodham (Priest). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1431, ——— Knyght (Priest). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1432, William de Burgh (Priest), obit. Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1467, Robertus Borton (Capellanus). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1493, William Everingham (Priest). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1501, Joachem Bretoner. Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1506, Johnes Jackson. Patron, Prior of Nostel.

15— (date obliterated). Alexander Jake. Patron, Prior of Nostel.

1564, ——— (name obliterated). Patron, Prior of Nostel.

15— ——— (date and name obliterated). Patron, Prior of Nostel,

1579, George Clark. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.

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- 1603, Rich^lus Shelete. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1604, M - a - - Guylder. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1609, Edwardus Watkin. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1638, — Pinc - h - r, M.A. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1677, Caleb Slater, M.A. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1680, T. Hastings Pickering, reg. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1691, Matthew Rowe (buried at Featherston). Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1705, Richard Pickering. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1730, John Garlick (buried at Featherstone). Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1734, Christopher Driffield, obit. 82 yeares. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1788, George Desmeth Kelly. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1823, Rev. Thomas Hinde. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1874, Rev. Benjamin Hinde. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.
1887, Rev. Frank George Stebbings. Patron, Christ Church, Oxford.

Whitwood Mere Parish Church The foundation stone of a new church, dedicated to All Saints, at Whitwood Mere in the Parish of Featherstone, was laid in January 1864, and opened the following December, the Rev. Edward Maule Cole, M.A., being the first curate in charge. Three months later the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England prepared a representation to the Council as to the assignment of a Consolidated Chapelry to this church, taking in certain extremities of the parishes of Featherstone and Methley which lie contiguous one to another, where was collected a population situated at some distance from the respective parish churches. This representation received the approval of Her Majesty in Council on

Whitwood Mere Parish Church

the 9th of March, 1865. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners further obtained the sanction of the Council to declare this Consolidated Chapelry a Rectory on the 13th of August, 1867. Certain portions of the tithes of Featherstone and Methley parishes were alienated to provide the endowment, hence we have at Whitwood Mere a modern church with an ancient endowment. In 1870 a Church Burial Ground was provided.

The following is a list of the Rectors of Whitwood Mere:—

- 1864, Edward Maule Cole, M.A. (reg.) Patron, Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.
1865. John Ramsay McDowall M.A. (reg.) Patron, Archbishop of York.
1867, Joseph Games Gibbs, M.A. (reg.) Patron, Archbishop of York.
1868, John James Needham, B.D. (obit 1904), Patron, Archbishop of York.

During the incumbency of the Rev. J. J. Needham, a Mission Church, dedicated to St. James, was erected in the Potteries, and opened in 1886 by Archbishop Thomson.

It is at present served by a lay missionary.

CHAPTER XXI

Fryston The parish of Fryston comprises the hamlets of Wheldale, Fryston, Ferry Fryston, ancient manors of the Lacy fee, and the more modern village of Ferrybridge. It is thus described in the Domesday Survey.

Manor—In Queldale and Fristone Gamel had seven carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be five ploughs. Gerbodo now has of Ilbert, himself there three ploughs, and four villanes, and one bordar having four ploughs and a half. There is a Church and a Priest, and twenty-four acres of meadow, value in King Edward's time four pounds, now thirty shillings.

Manor—In Fereia (Ferry Fryston) Suuan had five carucates of land to be taxed where there may be four ploughs. Hamelin now has it of Ilbert; himself there two ploughs, and three villanes with two ploughs, and three acres of meadow, value in King Edward's time 50s., now 20s.

Old Queldale being placed first in the order
Church at of description, points it out as chief
Queldale ville; and here it is evident was the Saxon church mentioned in the Domesday Record. Where it stood, or when discontinued as a place

Old Church at Queldale

of worship, we find no record, but concurrent circumstances lead us to think that it probably stood on or near the site of the present Wheldale farm house, bequeathed by Lady Elizabeth Hastings to Queen's College, Oxford, which tradition says to have been formerly a religious house, and where may still be seen portions of an older fabric incorporated with the present building.

The only other reference to it that we have found is contained in the deed of endowment when the present church at Ferry Fryston was given by Sir Henry Vavasour, to the Vicar's Choral of the Cathedral Church of York in 1332. It was then a Chapel of ease only, and had been so for some time previously. In this deed of endowment, the church at Fryston was appropriated to the Vicar's Choral on the 10th of March 1332, and a perpetual vicar was appointed, "who shall have cure of the parishioners' souls and laudably serve the church in divine offices . . . and have for his sustentation out of the fruits thereof this portion following, viz

1st The 3rd part of the mansion house of the Rectory of Fryston for his habitation, with a competent curtilage on the south side of the hall.
2nd—Shall have 18 acres of land in the town of Fryston with the moiety of the meadows to the Church belonging. Also 14 acres of land in the town of Queldale with the mediety of the meadow to the Church belonging. 3rd. He shall have all mortuaries both quick and dead . . . and shall

have the whole Altarage of the Church . . . for which the said Vicar shall find at his own cost, a priest to celebrate thrice a week in the Chapel of Queldale, as the rector of Fryston used to do."

It would be a curious and interesting subject of enquiry, could we trace the process by which this ancient church at Wheldale became reduced to a Chapel of ease, to the more modern church of Ferry Fryston, and finally to be abandoned altogether, leaving no trace of its former existence, except the 14 acres of glebe lands which yet remain of its original endowment. We may reasonably suppose that the town of Queldale from some cause or other became decayed and depopulated, and the inhabitants migrated to Ferry Fryston, which after the building of Pontefract Castle would rise in importance owing to the presence of the ferry on the direct road to the north, and hence the necessity of building the church at Ferry Fryston to supply the spiritual wants of the people. Subsequently a bridge was built east of the ferry, and then we find the population of Ferry Fryston declining as Ferrybridge rose in importance. Whatever population Ferry Fryston may once have contained, it must have been absorbed by Ferrybridge, leaving it what it now appears, a church standing almost alone. Reviewing the description in Domesday Book, we come to the conclusion that Queldale is the present Wheldale, that Fryston is Water Fryston, and Fereia is Ferry Fryston; and that Ferrybridge did not then exist, but rose into being

Former Owners of Wheldale, Fryston, &c.

on or about the building of a bridge, which the progress of civilization would eventually require to supersede the ferry. Ferry Fryston as we have seen from the entry in Domesday, was subinfeudated by Ilbert de Lacy to Hamelin. This man erected a water-mill near the present church, which existed for several centuries under the name of "Hamelin's Mill," and it was also one of the original grants together with 3 acres of land belonging to the mill, which Robert de Lacy gave to the monks of St. John at Pontefract. Ilbert de Lacy subinfeudated Queldale and (Water) Fryston to Gerbodo. This Gerbodo left two sons, named in the Nostell Chartulary, William and Robert respectively. The latter subsequently owned Wheldale, while William had (Water) Fryston, and later became possessed also of Ferry Fryston. We gather from a perusal of the Nostell and Pontefract Charters, that some 150 years later, one Alice Haget, a descendant of William the son of Gerbodo, married Henry Wallis of Burgwallis and Newton Wallis, thus uniting the manors of Newton and Fryston under one lordship. The ruins of his manor house may be still seen at the erroneously called Newton Priory, which we find clearly located in the Pontefract Chartulary, though it may at a later date have been converted into a conventual building, yet we can find no records to confirm this, but only the tradition handed down in its name "Newton Priory."

Of the condition of Fryston in the 13th century,

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some idea may be formed from an Inquisition made in 1248, which shows that Alice Haget had in demesne at "Fristune and Feri" the following:—

	s.	d.
10 score acres of land at 6d an		
acre - - - - -	100	0
26½ acres of meadow at 3s. - -	79	6
15 bovates of land let to tenants		
at 2s. - - - - -	30	0
The tenants render in work - -	43	9
6 cottars who pay no rent but do		
work (in harvest time) worth -	8	3
4 other tenants who pay - -	2	10
15 free tenants pay - - -	54	0
A mill there yields - - -	26	0
Sum of the whole	£17	4 4

The family of Haget was evidently of importance at this period. They were patrons of the church, as we find that Dame Alice Haget in the year 1240 presented William de Feugers, Clerk to the Church.

Next in succession appears a branch of the Vavasours of Hazlewood. They also held the advowson of the church, as we find a Dame Alice de Vavasour presenting in 1289. William, the second son of Sir Henry Vavasour, paid five pounds relief for one knight's fee in Friston, after the death of his elder brother Henry in 1357. Again in 1405 we have a Sir Henry Vavasour paying ten

Successive Owners of the Manor of Fryston

pounds relief for two knights' fees in Water Fryston, at the death of Elizabeth his mother. Again in 1474 John Vavasour paid 6s. 8d. fine, a homage for his estate in Ferry Fryston. The Manor then passed to the Rawsons, a family of some note in the latter part of the 15th century. Richard Rawson, who died in 1483, bequeaths "To buy some ornaments for the Church of Friston-by-the Water, V marks. To buy &c. for Castelfurth Church li. vjs. viij: . . In amending Ferrybrigge and Castelforth brigge xxli."

During the Middle Ages the manor of Fryston was owned for several generations by the De Rotherfields. In Stuart times it was in the hands of the Hollings family; subsequently a branch of the family of Crowle, of Hull, was settled here. During their stay they kept up their connection with their native town. George Crowle, Esq., of Fryston Hall was six times elected M.P. for Hull, from 1722 to 1741. The last entry in the parish register relating to this family is under date 1798, April 9th, "Rodger Crowle, Esqr., late of Fryston buried." Late in the 18th century a Charles Crowle sold the estates to the Milnes family of Wakefield.

Fryston Church The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, dates from about 1170. It has been frequently restored, and exhibits an interesting succession of styles. The south doorway is evidently the most ancient portion, of late Norman or transition style. The tower dates from the 14th

century, it is a plain ivy-clad structure, and appears to be fast falling into decay. The interior of the church is plain and unattractive, containing nothing of particular interest, with the exception of a brass tablet immediately over the pulpit, with the following inscription :—

“To the memory of Robert Pemberton Milnes, for many years Member of Parliament of the Borough of Pontefract ; a man of rare talents, deep affections and noble disposition, who declined in youth and in age the proffered honours of public life, content with the position of a beloved and respected English country gentleman. Born May 20th, 1784, Died November 9th, 1856.”

**Testa-
mentary
Burials,
&c.**

“12th Dec. 1443, John Skypwith de Fery in Fryston made his will, giving his soul to God Almighty, St. Mary and all saints, and his body to be buried in the Quire of the parish church of St. Andrew of Fryston.”

“5th Sep. 1497, James Rawson, Fryston, to be buried in the church afore the image of our lady, standing on the north side of the said Kirk.”

In an old register book belonging to this parish occurs the following entry :—“Ano Domi 1604. xvi Prsons young & old were burried of ffryston, wch dyed all of plague between mychalmas and Sant Andrew's day. Written ye laste day of Nov 1605.”

The living was valued in the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., about the year 1290, at £20 per annum ; in the Liber Regis (1680) at £5 19s. 2d.

Fryston Churchyard

in the Parliamentary Return at £113 8s. od. In 1726 it was augmented by Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Benefaction of Lands of the annual value of £12 10s. od. This lady also gave a service of Communion Plate to the church. The churchyard contains the family vault of the Milnes family. There are also many ancient tombstones, some engraved with those quaint epitaphs which were so common a century ago. One tombstone reminds us of the old coaching days:—

"Here lies the body of Matthew Hanson, of Ferry-bridge, Coachman, who was unfortunately killed by the overturning of the Glasgow Mail, February 24th, 1811. Aged 48.

All you that doth behold this stone,
Oh, think how quickly I was gone."

The following epitaph is of interest, as it was written by the late Lord Houghton:—

"To the Memory of Anne Hutton, who died Xmas day, 1869, aged 64 years; wife of Abraham Hutton, Head-gardener at Fryston Hall, and mother of Henry Hutton, the distinguished botanist, who died at Jasinga, in the Island of Java, on the 21st November, 1866. She was active, dutiful, and affectionate in all the relations of domestic life, and the faithful friend of the family of Lord Houghton for more than forty years.

Also of Abraham Hutton, born Dec. 1st, 1806, died Feb. 27th, 1878. An example of Probity, Industry, and Fidelity to all around him."

On the following pages we give a catalogue of the Rectors and Vicars of Fryston.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

- 1240, William de Feugers. Presented by Alice Haget.
1249, Robert de Waleys.
1289, William de Humilton. Presented by Alice de Vavasour.
1300, Robert de Vavasour, Presented by William de Vavasour.
1320, Richard de Mosely. Presented by Johanna de Vavasour.
1325, Roger de Synningthwaite. Presented by Henry de Vavasour.

VICARS PRESENTED BY THE VICARS' CHORAL.

- 1335, William de Wynter.
1405, William de Wellerton, resigned.
— John Lylman.
1416, John Lee, resigned.
1423, Robert Greenhill, obit.
1432, Robert Grymeston, obit.
1452, Richard Palmer, resigned.
1456, John Sketton, obit.
1462, Thomas Steyle, resigned.
1462, William, Smith, obit.
1467, John Swak, obit.
1470, John Cawode, obit.
1489, Rad. Hopkyns, obit.
1510, John Nosterfield, resigned.
1519, John Gascoigne.
— Peter Kellingbeck, obit.
1550, Thomas Holme.
1556, William Rumbold.
1583, Nicholas Parker, obit.
1618, John Innesse, resigned.
1620, Hugo Jennings, obit 1653.
— G. Crook (probably ejected during the Protectorate).
— James Chrychley, obit 1659.
1659, Owen Jones.
1664, Robert Symons or Seymour, obit.
1674, Paul Normanton, obit.
1684, John Higgens.

Brotherton

1690, John Thackuray, obit 1732,
1733, Edmund Noble, obit.
1740, Stephen Newton.
1761, William Forster.
1768, Joseph Bridges.
1785, Thomas Pickard, obit.
1801, James Richardson, resigned.
1804, William Richardson, obit.
1852, William Bulmer. M.A., obit.
1869, Benjamin Eamonson Metcalfe, M.A., resigned.
1887, Alfred Harry Benden Lees, M.A.

Brother- Directly opposite Ferry Fryston, near
ton the north bank of the river is the parish
of Brotherton. Although not mentioned by name
in the Domesday Survey, it is a place of consider-
able antiquity. A church was erected here before
1196, in which year it was confirmed to the Dean
and Chapter of York by Pope Celestine III.

At Brotherton, Queen Margaret, wife of Edward
the First, gave birth to a son, who is known in
history as Thomas de Brotherton. Edward the
Second created him Duke of Norfolk, and the Parlia-
ment conferred upon him the office of Earl Marshal
of England, which his descendants still hold.

Brotherton has evidently been a place of more
importance than at present. Its rich beds of lime-
stone have been quarried from a remote period.

Among the old families of note formerly resident
here the Tindalls appear to have occupied a
prominent place.

Brotherton Marsh appears to have been common
fighting ground during the Wars of the Roses and

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

the subsequent sieges of Pontefract Castle, during the great Civil War, by opposing forces contending for the pass at Ferrybridge. Human skeletons, ancient armour, spurs and other relics of intestine warfare have been frequently found there. At the siege of Pontefract Castle three of the Tindalls were among the gentlemen volunteers in the castle, in Sir John Ramsden's division in defence of King Charles.

Brother- The church, dedicated to St. Edward
ton the Confessor, is an imposing edifice.

Church It comprises a nave and aisles, a chancel and tower, and is one of the few churches in this neighbourhood which possesses a gallery.

The Vicarage is thus valued in the Liber Regis, "first-fruits £5 6s. 8d., tenths, 5s. 6d." and in the Parliamentary Survey at £16 13s. 8d. per annum. The church is rich in mural inscriptions to members of the Ramsden family of Byram Park, the Tindalls and others. In the chancel is a monumental inscription as follows:—

"Frederick Henry Ramsden, eldest son of Henry James Ramsden, grandson of Sir John Ramsden, Bart., Captain in the Coldstream Guards, who fell at the Battle of Inkerman, Nov. 3rd, 1854, aged 24 years. He is buried on the field of battle in the same grave with seven brother officers."

Another is in memory of

"Julia Daubuz, mother of Charles Daubuz, vicar of this parish, who with her family in the year 1686 left France their native country to avoid the severe persecution against the Reformed; died 8th Dec. 1764, aged 77 years."

Vicars of Brotherton

There was found in digging a grave in Brotherton churchyard, May 31st, 1781, a chalice and its lid, a spur and armour. It is probable that two bodies had been buried here, the chalice no doubt belonging to some ancient ecclesiastic, and the more modern relics to one of the lords slain at Brotherton Marsh, in 1461.

The following is a catalogue of the Vicars of Brotherton :—

1332, Rad. de Musterton, resig.	1572, Xphor. Young, resig.
1348, Henry de Swanstede, ob.	1593, William Sympson, obit.
1349, Robert de Sayvil, obit.	1634, John Owen, obit.
— William de Athelengflatts obit.	1662, Thomas Marsh.
— Sym. de Finner, resig.	— Stephen Aspden, obit.
1364, John de Hillam.	1671, Samuel Bell, obit.
1403, William Bramley, resig.	1680, Thomas Richardson, ob.
1407, Henry Sandys, resig.	— Charles Daubuz, obit.
1437, William Walton, obit.	1717, John Watkinson, obit.
1448, William Benne, obit.	1736, Stephen Newton, obit.
1452, John Bernard, obit.	1761, Henry Hobson, obit, 1777.
1480, Thomas Turner, obit.	1777, John Law, obit.
1509, Richard Foster, resig.	1784, John Lowe, obit.
1509, Thomas Meryng, obit.	1837, John Dixon, obit.
1525, Lawrence, Diconson, ob.	1843, George Larden.
1569, Jac. Crostwaite, resig.	1856, Joseph Irvin.
	1874, George Haslam, B.A.

Ferry-bridge The Great North Road skirts the western side of Brotherton, crossing the river at Ferrybridge by a handsome bridge of three arches, erected by Bernard Hartley in 1804. Before the advent of railways, Ferrybridge was an important coaching-station, and the inhabitants obtained their chief support from the passage of travellers, for

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

whose accommodation there were several capital inns and commodious stabling, calling into requisition a host of coachmen, guards, postillions, post-boys, grooms and porters. A tragic event is recorded in the parish registers as follows:—"1781, Gervasse Thompson, Ferrybridge, shot on the London Road." It appears a gentleman travelling in a post chaise, had accidentally left an empty purse on a table in one of the rooms of the Angel Inn. When the mistake was discovered a man was sent off to overtake the traveller and return him his property. When he came near to the chaise he called out, "Stop, your purse, your purse," on which the gentleman believing that a highwayman was demanding his money, shot him dead, and drove on. Afterwards, on being informed of his fatal mistake, it is said he liberally provided for the man's widow and children.

The Swan Inn was the resting place of Helen Walker, the prototype of Jeanie Deans, on her mission of love and affection, as recorded by Sir Walter Scott, in "The Heart of Midlothian."

The There were on the south bank of the
Soke- river, between Fryston and Knottingley,
Mills at the time of the Domesday Survey, several fulling (corn) mills, and some time after the Conquest were erected three mills driven by water power, and also at a later date a windmill nearer Pontefract. These were the Soke Mills. The right of "soke" comprised the privilege of grinding all the grain of the surrounding townships. Subsequently,

The Soke Mills

other windmills were erected nearer Pontefract, and some of the inhabitants of those parts gradually began to use these mills, as being easier of access, for we find that a complaint was made by the officers of the Duchy of Lancaster to King James the First, and he found it necessary to issue a proclamation prohibiting any of the said inhabitants from grinding grain except at the Mills of the Soke. A short time, however, only appears to have elapsed when the inhabitants of Pontefract, Tanshelf and Monkhill began to disregard the royal commands. In consequence of this the Attorney General exhibited a bill of information in the Court of Chancery against the Mayor of Pontefract and others, and it was ultimately decreed that "the inhabitants of the aforesaid towns and villages, shall not grind their corn at any other mill save at the royal duchy mills, and the ancient stone-windmill at Pontefract, provided always that if it shall at any time happen that the said mills stand in back water, or be in decay, or want of water or be overcharged with work, so that the inhabitants aforesaid, or any part of them cannot have their corn ground there within the space of twenty-four hours after the same be brought to the said mills, then in such cases when it shall so happen, it shall and may be lawful for every such person to take and carry the grist to any other mill to be ground."

About a mile from Ferrybridge stands the Stump Cross, formerly known as "Ralph's Cross," and

referred to under that name in one of the Pontefract charters dated 1190. The same charter refers also to "The Thieves Gallows" as being close to Ralph's Cross. This clearly points towards St. Thomas Hill, and leads to the inference that the place selected for the execution of Earl Thomas in 1322 was an ancient place of execution. It is worthy of note that this site towards the north overlooked Parlington, the Manor of De Spencer, for whose ruin Lancaster took up arms against Edward the Second.

Fryston Hall and the Milnes Family Fryston Hall, is a substantial country mansion, standing in a well-wooded and extensive park, about two miles east of Castleford, and came into the possession of the Milnes family towards the close of the 18th century.

This family which has been so honourably connected with this district for more than two centuries came originally from Derbyshire, and settled in Wakefield about the year 1670, where they commenced business in the woollen trade.

Early in the following century Wakefield became one of the most prosperous centres of this industry, which grew into something like a monopoly in the hands of the Milnes family. They were looked up to for their wealth, their sturdy integrity, and their sound business qualities; meanwhile their social position became that of a family of country gentlemen.

Richard Milnes of Wakefield, by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of John Pemberton,



greenwood@yorkshireancestors.com

FRYSTON HALL

The Milnes Family

Esq., of Liverpool, added largely to the fortunes of the house. Their elder son, Robert Milnes, married Joyce Slater, the daughter of Dr. Slater of Chesterfield, whilst the other, Pemberton Milnes, married Jane Slater. Pemberton Milnes played a leading part in the politics of the West Riding along with the Fitzwilliams, the Cavendishes and the Foljambes. His only child, a daughter, by her marriage with Viscount Galway brought the families of Milnes and Monckton into alliance. Richard Slater Milnes, the heir of Robert, became a conspicuous figure in the county. At the age of 25 he was elected Member of Parliament for York, and he it was who in 1788 purchased the Fryston estate from Charles Crowle, Esq., a friend of Horace Walpole, who was a frequent visitor to the place when staying at Kippax Park with Sir John Bland, Bart., the fashionable gambler who shot himself in 1755.

This Richard Slater Milnes settled at Fryston Hall in 1790, and it was his country residence up to his death in 1804. Of his sons, the elder, Robert Pemberton Milnes, who succeeded to the estate, was a man of remarkable qualities. In 1806, at the age of 22, he was elected one of the Members for Pontefract, as a supporter of the Tory Party. Two years later he married the Honorable Maria Monckton, the second daughter of Viscount Galway.

Few young men have made so brilliant a débüt in oratory during their first year in Parliament, and to few men of 25 years comes the offer of a

seat in the Cabinet, yet this is what happened to Robert Pemberton Milnes when Mr. Percival offered him the choice of the offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer or Secretary for War. After some careful thought he refused both positions, preferring to lead the life of a country gentleman, which he conceived to be in many respects the highest and the most enviable to which any man could aspire.

In 1856, the Queen through Lord Palmerston offered him a peerage, an honour from which he turned aside, as in his youth he had turned aside from the great office offered to him by Mr. Percival. Two years later he died, and the Fryston estates were inherited by his only son, Richard Monckton Milnes, who afterwards became the first Lord Houghton.

Lord Richard Monckton Milnes was born 19th **Houghton** June, 1809. He early exhibited a taste for literary pursuits, and at Cambridge University he became the friend and companion of such men as Alfred Tennyson, Arthur Hallam, Frederic Maurice, Trench, Alford and Spedding.

He was elected Member for Pontefract in 1837, and continued to represent that borough in Parliament for nearly a quarter of a century. In 1851 he married the Hon. Annabella Hungerford Crewe, and seven years later was raised to the peerage as Baron Houghton of Great Houghton.

On the death of the venerable poet Rogers, who had for many years kept open house in London for literary men, young Milnes took his place, and thus

Lord Houghton

his London residence became the resort of a galaxy of writers who have added lustre to the literature of the Victorian Era. At Fryston also, during his father's lifetime and afterwards, he delighted in receiving visits from his literary friends.

In April 1841 Carlyle paid his first visit to Fryston Hall. The introduction of the "Sage of Chelsea" to the owner of Fryston is characteristic of both. Carlyle was ushered into the morning room where old Mr. Milnes sat enjoying his pipe; the squire rose and welcomed his son's distinguished guest, apologising at the same time for having no better occupation on hand than smoking. "Indeed, sir," said Carlyle, "I think that this is about the most sensible occupation which any man could have, and if you don't object, I will join you in it at once."

An amusing story has been told regarding Milnes and Carlyle at a later date, when Milnes was an influential Member of Parliament.

"Richard Milnes," said Carlyle one day, "when are you going to get that pension for Alfred Tennyson?"

"My dear Carlyle," responded Milnes, "the thing is not so easy as you seem to suppose. What will my constituents at Pontefract say if I *do* get the pension for Tennyson? They know nothing about *him* or his *poetry*, and they will probably think he is some poor relation of my own and that the whole affair is a job."

Carlyle replied, "Richard Milnes, on the Day of

Judgment, when the Lord asks you why you didn't get that pension for Tennyson, it will not do to lay the blame on your constituents, it is *you* that will be damned."

In October 1844 Mr. Disraeli and his wife visited Fryston as the guests of Mr. Pemberton Milnes, and subsequently Disraeli sketched the character and achievements of Richard Monckton Milnes in "Tancred," under the *nom-de-plume* of Mr. Vavasour.

As a poet the subject of our sketch was well known and highly esteemed. His verse was graceful and melodious, the rhythm perfect; his longer and more elaborate productions were often charming; but perhaps he will be best remembered by those simple lyrics which his muse threw off from time to time. "I wandered by the brook-side," "The beating of my own heart," and "Strangers yet," will for many a day hold a place among the popular songs of England.

This witty and genial peer died at Vichy, 10th August, 1885. His body was brought to England, and laid by the side of his wife in the ancient churchyard of Ferry Fryston. Archbishop Thomson, who had known them both throughout their married life, conducted the service. The estates descended to his only son, Robert Offley Ashburton, who has since been raised to the dignity of Earl of Crewe.

CHAPTER XXII

Glass Regarding the etymology of the name of **Houghton** this place, the distinctive title "Glass" is of comparatively modern date, being derived from a small glass-house erected here about the middle of the 18th century. The affix "ton" is evidently of Saxon origin, indicating a collection of home-steads. A difference of opinion exists as to the meaning of "hough," some authorities deriving it from "haigh," a fence, while others trace it to the Celtic root, "houe," a burying-place on a hill. Houghton, according to the latter authorities, would therefore signify a Saxon hamlet near a British burying-place. This view was strongly supported by the late Mr. Richard Holmes, of Pontefract, and certainly many similar names of places might be given to prove that the Saxons frequently adopted both the Celtic and Roman names of places which they found in use when they first settled in the country. The researches carried on in all parts of the country, of which a record is preserved in the various publications of our antiquarian societies, have shewn the great extent to which this practice of barrow interment prevailed in Celtic, and even in early Saxon times. "The earliest Christians,"

says J. M. Kemble (*Archæological Journal*, Vol. xiv, page 125), "buried beyond a doubt where the earliest Pagans had deposited the burnt remains of their dead. When the Romans had departed, and the heathen Saxons were overrunning the country, they would naturally appropriate the burying-places found existing. This will be more readily assented to, when we remember that nearly a century and a half elapsed, after the second introduction of Christianity into this island, under the Saxons, before burial-places were made around the churches. This was done under the authority of Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 742." In this connection it may be remarked that throughout a very wide portion of the North of England, wherever the root "hough" or "houe" is found as the name, or part of the name of a place, there will be found a hill near, which may be reasonably supposed to have been utilized in pre-historic times as a burying place. Mr. Holmes claims that such a hill is found at Glass Houghton, in the long barrow-shaped eminence of Halliwell Wood, so named from the "holy well," situated just within the eastern border of the wood. This well, which we have recently inspected, is of oblong shape, measuring 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, and having three of its sides lined with stone. It is supplied from a spring which is said to possess certain medicinal properties. There is a similar well in the neighbourhood, to which, judging from its name, sacred virtues have at some time been

Norman Times

attributed, namely, St. Ives' Well, near to the old road from Pontefract to Castleford, but to neither of them have we been able to attach any traditionary history.

Norman Times Glass Houghton, under the name of Hoctun, is recorded in Domesday Book as formerly owned (when the first Survey was made under Edward the Confessor in 1065) by Lewin, a Saxon thane, who had there 6 carucates of land, employing 4 ploughs, and contributing 100s. to the royal revenue.

At the Conquest the manor came under the lordship of Ilbert de Lacy, and when the Domesday Survey was made in 1086, its taxable value was 80s. Ilbert had there 4 bordars, 14 villanes, and a proportionate number of serfs. It was thus at that time a comparatively prosperous place as judged by its geldable value. Between the dates of the two Surveys, all the neighbouring manors had deteriorated in value to a much greater extent than was the case with Hocton, *e.g.* Queldale and Friston had decreased in geldable value from 80s. to 30s., and Ferry (Fryston) from 50s. to 20s. Unlike most of their other manors, the De Lacies and their successors, the Lancasters, never subinfeudated Houghton, but retained it in their direct possession as long as they held the castle and honour of Pontefract. When Henry de Lacy founded the church at Castleford, in the 12th century (about 1160), we find Houghton included in that parish, and contributing not less than two-thirds of the

tithes of that foundation. The chief family of Houghton during the 13th and 14th centuries were the De Casterfords, several of whom are mentioned as jurors (see page 27).

Ancient Deeds In the "Chartulary of St. John Priory, Pontefract," we find as early as 1220, that one of the De Casterfords appears as a witness to a deed, of which the following is a translation:—
"Know &c. that I, Hugh, parson of Castleford . . have confirmed and quit-claimed . . . Serlo, my native (*i.e.* serf) son of Thomas Kirkman of Castleford . . . to be held and possessed by the said monks, with his chatels, and with all his family which shall come after him, and that this my gift &c. . . witnesses, Ranulf de Casterford, &c. . . ."

This deed throws an interesting light upon the system of serfdom, which did not entirely die out in England until Tudor times. Serfs were really attached *to* and sold *with* the land, but this man appears to have been sold or given independently of any holding, into the service of the monastery.

It appears from a later deed dated 1253, that at that period a portion of the Houghton tithes was derived from a plot of land lying in Pontefract. The following is a translation of the deed:—"Prior Dalmatius of Pontefract to Hugh Biseth, Priest of Castleford, know present and to come that I, brother Dalmatius, the humble minister of Pontefract and the convent of that place have confirmed to Hugh Biseth of Castleford, one acre and a half

The Poll Tax

of meadow and pasture in the Park of Allerton, that namely which Thomas de Reineville formerly gave to us, and which lies near the land of William, son of Juliana, on each side. To be had and possessed from us . . . paying yearly one pound of cumin, for all secular service and demands; and for this . . . the said Hugh has given to us that acre of land . . . in the territory of Pontefract . . . These being witnesses Willelmo de Fetherstona &c. &c.”

This was apparently a fair exchange for both parties. The Monks of St. John were able to consolidate their holdings about Pontefract, and the priest of Castleford obtained in exchange a plot much nearer his own parish church.

The We have evidence from the Poll Tax
Poll Tax Assessment of 1378, that even as early as the 14th century Houghton was a much more important village than Castleford. This record gives the names of all persons, excluding mendicants and serfs, above the age of 16, with their trades and the sums charged on each according to their state and degree, and here we find that Houghton contributed 17s. 10d., while Castleford contributed only 15s. 10d. The taxpayers were 43 at 4d., and 7 at 6d. The latter included two smiths, two tailors, one webster (*i.e.* weaver) one wright (joiner) and one undescribed.

During the two following centuries the chief families of Houghton were the Bradfords, Pilkyngtons and Shillitoes.

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

An Among the "York Wills," under date
Ancient May 28th, 1530, we find a Walter Brad-
Custom ford of Houghton Carr Hall (which we identify as located on the site of Mr. W. Breffit's residence), who appears to have combined the occupations of lawyer and farmer. Among his bequests are, "To the Frears (Friars) of Pomfrete, and to the Grey Frears of Doncaster, to ayther of yame vis. viij d., also I will that my executors purchase landes to the valor of v s., to be giffyn to the Prior and convent of the Blak Frears in Pomfrete for oon obit yerely, to be doon for ever the day of my buriall, viz—every frere beyng a priest iiij d., and every frere beyng no priest ij d., and the residew to the Prior for the anornamentes of the church there. Item, I bequeith to my curate of the church of Castilford, that as right belongyth, according to the Kynge his acts of the parliments, for my mortuarie."

This latter clause raises a curious and interesting question. Owing to the system by which the parochial revenues had been reduced by appropriations, the parish clergy were but scantily remunerated for their services, and a new source of revenue was provided, whereby the incumbent of a parish became entitled to a "mortuary" or death-fee, which, as the many wills of the period testify, was "the second best horse" belonging to the deceased parishioner, or the bequest took some other form when the parishioner died possessed of no beast. This practice evidently did not always work

Early Coal-Pits

smoothly, as it naturally led to much discontent and dissension, on the one side at the paltriness of the testator or his heirs, and on the other because of unwarranted exactions, so that an Act was passed early in the reign of Henry the Eighth, which provided a scale whereby these mortuary fees should be regulated. By this Act the estate of each deceased parishioner was to pay nothing if it was under the value of £6 13s. 4d.; if the estate realized over that amount and under £30, the payment was fixed at 3s. 4d.; from £30 to £40, it was to be 6s. 8d.; and above £40 in value, the sum payable was 10s., which was the highest amount allowed by the Act. Prior to this statute being enacted it had become quite a custom for the testator to make a bequest "in the name of his mortuary," or "as the custom required, my second-best horse."

Early The inhabitants of Houghton even at
Coal-Pits this remote period appear to have made use of the surface coal. A record of 1535 states that "though heare be plenti of wode, yet the people burne much yearth cole, by cawse hit is plentiful and sold good chepe." In a record of 1570 we find a "John Dee of Houghton" described as "a digger of cole." According to a "Survey of Pontefract Park" made in 1588, Houghton Carr Farm possessed at that period certain rights to pasture their cattle in the park (see page 106).

Castleford and District in the Olden Time

Houghton The chief families of Houghton during in the 17th the 17th century were the Bilcliffes, **Century** Sudburys, Flemings and Leakes.

The 16th century Manor House (parts of which still exist) was the residence of Richard Bilcliffe, Esq., a devoted Royalist, who fought for King Charles, and took a prominent part in the defence of Pontefract Castle against the Parliamentary army. During the first siege, and just after the garrison had been relieved by Sir Marmaduke Langdale in 1645, Bilcliffe in charge of the Houghton volunteers, supported by 500 cavalry under the command of Langdale Sunderland, of Featherstone, was encamped at Houghton, when Fairfax, at the head of a regiment of Roundheads, effected a night surprise, and after a sharp skirmish routed the Royalists, seizing all their munitions of war, and capturing most of Sunderland's horses. Subsequently Bilcliffe joined the defenders of the castle, and was present when the garrison capitulated some months later.

Religious Persecu- The "Northowram Register" (edited by **tions** J. Horsefall Turner, Esq.) contains the lists of suspected Popish Recusants. Under date January 1680, we find the names of the following residents of Houghton as "suspects":—"Thomas Prince and Anne his wife, Margaret Bilcliffe, Mary Bilcliffe ye elder, Matthew Bilcliffe, Anne Bilcliffe and Thomas fleminge; also Anne Norton and Sarah Atak of Castlefurth, John Grocke, Elizabeth Grocke, ffrancis Johnson and Ann Coplin

Religious Persecutions

of Kippax." These were cited to appear at the Doncaster Sessions, January 1682, with the exception of Thomas Fleminge, who appears to have conformed, as witness the following affidavit:—
"William Bridges, Rector of Castleford, certifies that Thomas Fleminge of Houghton for several years a popish Recusant did 3 or 4 months ago declare his sorrow for persisting so long in that his recusancy, whereupon he procured his absolution from the Ecclesiastical Court, and since that time hath duly resorted to his parish church of Castleford as a member of the Church of England, Dated 15th January 1682."

In this connection we find presented to the Pontefract Session, April 1679, a "ffetherston Bill, July ye 22nd 1679—as for Mr. Thomas Hippon and Mrs. Alis Hippon they became bound before Mr. Whyte to appear at this Session as popish recusants. As for Mr. John Hippon, Margaret Thimbleby, and Alis the wife of John Spinke they are *non est Inuentus*. As for John Spinke and Mrs. Brigitt Scholey, I have given them notice to be heare according to Order. William Malinson, Constable."

These entries show a state of affairs that we as Protestants must feel ashamed of. Catholics, however, were not the only people to suffer for conscience sake, for when the Conventicle Act was in force we find such records as the following:—
"Barnsley Session, October 1682. Thomas Cowper of Knottingley a Quaker, indicted for being at an unlawful conventicle, contemptuously refused to

plead to the indictment, fyned tenn pounds, which he refused to pay,—ordered to be conveyed to be imprisoned.” At the same Session reported that “Robert Clarkson of Pontefract, a Quaker, contemptuously refused to take the oath of allegiance.—committed to gaoler of York.” Also from “ffeatherston” the following were reported as “absent from church three weeks,—Philip Hamerton and his wife, Henry Addison and his wife, John Darley and his wife, John Spink and his wife, Sall Shillitoe, a Quaker; ffrancis Shillitoe, a Quaker.” We find no further record as to whether they “conformed” or not; a few years later the great Revolution took place, and in 1689 was passed the Toleration Act, which exempted Dissenters from the penalties of the existing statutes on religion, and enabled their ministers to conduct public worship in their own way.

A few years later we find in the West Riding Rolls, several entries of accounts paid to a “John Lake (or Leake) of Houghton,” described as “gent., supervisor.” He appears to have been the receiver of the sum of £160 granted at the Wakefield Sessions of 1697, for the repair of Castleford Bridge, “the said bridge having been injured by the breaking of frost.”

Houghton during the 18th Century During the following century, judging from the character of the entries in the Castleford parish registers, Houghton possessed several families of a high social standing, as many of them are described as

Houghton during the 18th Century

"gentleman." There is every indication that the village at the period we are treating of was remarkably prosperous, its mineral resources providing a flourishing trade, as is evidenced by the numerous disused coal-pits, sand-drifts and extensive lime-quarries. In 1745 a small glass-house was erected by a Mr. Lee, and long afterwards carried on under the name of "Lee and Champion." This factory, which stood on the site of the present Wesleyan Chapel, was about 1839 converted into a blacksmith's shop, and finally demolished in 1846. Its memory is still preserved in the addition of the title "Glass" to the ancient name of the village, and also in the local name of Glasshouse Hill, connecting the main street with Back Lane.

The coal-pits referred to above were "surface" pits, and embraced three seams of coal, known as "Crow Coal" and "Wheatwood Coal," the lowest seam being at a depth of about 40 yards. The village possessed something of a monopoly in the supply of coal to Pontefract and Castleford. Most of the coal for Pontefract and Tanshelf was carried by way of Rock Hill, in panniers slung across the backs of ponies and donkeys. A set of wooden rails laid down the old burial or "corpse" road was used in conveying the coal down to the village of Castleford. Part of this old road still exists on the south side of Smawthorne Lane, leading to the Garden Allotments.

In the ancient oak-wainscotted room of the present Manor House Farm, was held fortnightly the

Magistrates' Court, until its removal to the Ship Inn at Castleford, early in the 19th century. The chief families of Houghton in the 18th century were the Cotton Horns (*Guardian et supervisores pauperum*), Hooles, Carrs, Leakes, Penroses and Westerbyss.

The "Proposals for Inclosing the Open Parts of Pontefract Park" in 1779 contained a clause to the effect that "a road of forty feet wide should be staked out from Tanshelf towards Houghton village, the same to be a Private Road, but shall become a Public Road whenever communication is obtained across the intervening lands lying between the Park and the village of Houghton." This communication was made in 1822, when the new turnpike road from Leeds to Pontefract, via Oulton and Methley, was constructed under the supervision of Mr. Macadam. Every six miles there was fixed a toll-bar, one of which stood in Houghton village up to about 25 years ago. This new road gave direct access to Pontefract for vehicular traffic, in place of the old route by way of Rock Hill and the old Castleford and Pontefract Road.

The water supply of the village until very recent times was derived from private wells, and two public wells, viz:—the Weetworth Well, opposite the Primitive Methodist Chapel, and Top Well, in Wellgate, off Rock Hill. In the centre of the village, near the Royal Oak Inn, stood the Village Pump, since demolished.

In 1848 was built a small Chapel of ease, on the site of an old beerhouse. This place of worship

Opening of the Glass Houghton Collieries

has since been superseded by a new Church, dedicated to St. Paul, and opened by the Bishop of Beverley in 1902, the first curate-in-charge being the Rev. J. W. Pickup, B.A., who resigning in 1903, was succeeded by the Rev. C. A. Williamson, M.A.

The most important event of the 19th century for Glass Houghton was the opening of the Merefield (better known as the Glass Houghton) Collieries in 1869, by a Mr. W. H. Wilks, of Leeds and Pontefract, when the Haigh Moor bed was reached at a depth of 347 yards. This seam was found to be 4 feet 7 inches in thickness, including one dirt parting of 3 inches. Three years later the Prince of Wales Colliery was started, the Haigh Moor bed being reached at a depth of 477 yards; the seam with two dirt partings is 5 feet 6 inches in thickness. Quite recently at the Glass Houghton Collieries the Silkstone bed has been reached at a depth of 545 yards, while the Beeston bed, believed to be some 75 yards deeper, still remains to be developed.

The opening of these collieries has resulted in an influx of miners, the building of new streets, and a rapid increase of population.

Population of Glass Houghton in 1801	-	382
" " " 1901	-	2950

CORRIGENDA

- Page 4.—Line 10, for "Castrumford" read "Castra-ford."
Page 26.—Line 4; also Page 50.—Line 10, for "Ferrybridge"
read "Ferry Fryston."
Page 52.—Newton Priory—see Appendix I.
Page 62.—Line 7, for "no" read "nor."
Page 71.—St. Thomas Chantry, see Appendix II.
Page 99.—Line 9, for "Raw" read "Rawson."
Page 127.—Lines 26 to 30. This tradition, properly belonging
to Robin Hood, has been inserted here through a
clerical error.

L.P.

APPENDIX I. NEWTON PRIORY

CARTA HERVEI FILII RICARDI DE LEDESTUNE, A.D. 1193.

"Know that I, Hervey, son of Richard de Ledstone have confirmed to Adam my brother" (Chaplain of Ledstone in 1208) "a certain plot of land in Ledstone which lies between the stream and the land of Robert Wallis in length 8 rods, and in breadth towards the east 5 rods and a half in exchange for land which lies between the house of the aforesaid Adam, and the house of Roger son of Hugh, that is in length 5 rods and a half, and in breadth 3 rods, to be held these being witness, Roberto Walensi, Rogero persona de Ledshamia &c."

The boundaries are so very precise in this and other charters we have examined, that it is a simple matter to locate these plots of land. The 8 rods between the stream and the lands of Robert Wallis lie east of Ledstone Beck. The stream is, in another charter, named "the Lindyke," and appears to have run through these Ledstone and Newton fields; subsequent draining of these low-lying lands has obliterated all traces of it except the "moat" round the island, on which stand the ruins known as Newton Priory, and the ditch through the adjoining willow garth. From various charters we ascertain that an important person named Henry Wallis lived here as early as 1159. His successor, Robert Wallis, married Dionysia, one of the co-heirs of Robert Pictavus, who held the manor of Whitwood under the De Lacies. His signature and official standing, "Roberto Walensi, seneschal to Rogeri de Lacy," is found as witness to several grants of Ledstone lands to the monks at Pontefract.

Appendix I. (con.)

It seems reasonable to conclude that the so-called ruins of Newton Priory are remains of the manor house of the Wallis family, owners of this portion of Ledstone parish. The place is always described as Newton Wallis in the ancient deeds at Ledstone Hall. The family also owned Burgh-Wallis, a few miles further south, near Campsall. This manor house is located, by reference to various charters in the "Pontefract Chartulary" as "lying east of Ledstone fields," and "north of the great river" (*i.e.* the Aire), and "bounded by the Lindyke," which we assume to be the moat. The Wallis family lived here uninterruptedly for at least seven generations during the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. This Newton Manor was escheated in 1322 in consequence of the part taken by the owner, Richard Wallis, in the rebellion headed by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, but was restored to his son, Stephen Wallis, in 1333 by Edward the Third, and with him the family name ceases. How these ruins obtained the name of Newton Priory, is a question which, in the absence of documentary evidence, we are unable to answer. No local traditions even exist, only the distinctive title of "Priory" has come down to us from mediæval times, suggesting that it may have been used as a conventual retreat at some period or other prior to the dissolution of the religious houses by King Henry the Eighth.

APPENDIX II.

Since Chapter XII passed through the press we have, through the kindness of R. D. Ryder, Esq., of St. Catherine's, Pontefract, been granted the privilege of inspecting some very interesting relics of this Chantry of St. Thomas, now preserved in the beautiful grounds of Mr. Ryder's residence. They consist of a font, a gargoyle in the shape of a beautifully carved and well preserved human head, and many stones bearing traces of ecclesiastical sculpture. These are genuine relics of this St. Thomas Chantry, collected on the site at St. Thomas Hill, where Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was executed in 1322.

Among the many other interesting relics of antiquity in the possession of Mr. Ryder is a splendid specimen of a Roman milestone, bearing in Roman characters "Eboracum Marcus Aurelius" This milestone was discovered when a drain was being dug in Carlton Street, and was presented to Mr. Ryder by the late Dr. Jessop, of Castleford.

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